• **Julia Roberts** tops People Magazine's World's Most Beautiful People **ENTERTAINMENT** • **7 ways** to heat up marital sex • Straight men as endangered species: Are same-sex marriages the next big thing? **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE** • **It's the values, stupid:** Dos and don'ts for political candidates • Haughty but happy in the South of France, possibly the world's most expensive real estate **SUNDAY LIFESTYLE** • **DND chief** apologizes to Comelec but sticks to 'horror' story **NEWS / A2**

• **Noynoy** admits meeting INC head three times • Lim, Querubin put one over jailers **NEWS** • **Thailand** on brink of 'undeclared civil war' • Potential US military recruits increasingly too fat to serve **WORLD**

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, May 2, 2010 ★★ 18 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 143 P20

It's father vs daughter for Mabalacat mayor

By Charlene Cayabyab
Inquirer Central Luzon

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA—She's no longer daddy's little girl, that's for sure.

For the first time in

No deal, Marcoses claim

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Don't wish Dick good luck but God bless or 'good skill'

WHILE BEING INTERVIEWED BY A TELEVISION crew at the Marikina City Sports Park on why he was confident of winning, vice presidential candidate Bayani Fernando suddenly stopped in mid-sentence.

The candidate, who was interviewed a few meters away from the stage where a program for the Marikina Ati-atihan Festival was going on, seemed annoyed. After pausing for a few seconds, he said he had lost the thread of what he was saying because of the noise.

Guess who was speaking onstage. None other than Fernando's wife, Marides, the city mayor.

***

The Bagumbayan Party presidential candidate Sen. Richard Gordon would always correct anyone wishing him "good luck" after posing for photos with him or listening to him speak.

He would tell them: "I don't believe in luck."

Instead, he would ask people to say "God bless." Or to wish him instead, "Good Skill."

***

A few weeks ago, Gordon asked his supporters—without much fanfare—to take down the oversized billboards that they had put up for him and his running mate, Bayani Fernando.

"I want to set an example, especially since I am running for public office," he said.

Gordon was initially defiant when the Commission on Elections last March gave notice that some of his billboards were in violation of the Fair Elections Act, and asked that they be taken down.

The candidate said then he would not dismantle the billboards, explaining that they had been donated by supporters and had been put up without his knowledge.

As a lawyer, he said he believed that the Comelec notice "collides with the freedom of

DON'T MISS A2

RAIN MAN An raindrops keep falling, a barefoot Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, a guest senatorial candidate of the Nacionalista Party warms up to the crowd at the NP rally/concert in Meycauayan, Bulacan, on Thursday. MARI ARCE

Greggy Araneta denies ongoing talks with PCGG

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DICTATOR FERDINAND MARCOS yesterday denied that there were any talks about a settlement between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the strongman's heirs.

Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta, the husband of Marcos' daughter Irene, issued the statement a day after PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede announced that the body was seeking out a "universal settlement" for the recovery of some P548 billion in ill-gotten assets tied up in more than 900 court cases.

Abcede, who said he had met last Tuesday with Araneta, was confident a deal could be forged, if not in the last two months of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term, then that of her successor.

Araneta confirmed the meeting but said "there was no discussion of a deal."

"There are no talks ongoing or contemplated" between the PCGG and the Mar-

NO DEAL / A8

Unveiling of Ka Bel's relief marks opposition's Labor Day

By Tarra Quismundo and Tina G. Santos

POLITICIANS FROM VARIOUS SHADES of the opposition united with activist yesterday under the workingman's banner to commemorate Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran, an icon of the Philippine labor movement.

A bas-relief of Beltran, who died in 2008, was unveiled at Plaza Miranda in Manila, where he stood during Labor Day commemorations to speak of the plight of underpaid workers and fight for their welfare.

A gift from the Manila city government, the bas-relief by sculptor Julie Lluch was affixed to one of the massive pillars at Plaza Miranda, above a marker unveiled on Beltran's first death anniversary last year.

The unveiling was held in the morning, before activists mobilized for the annual

UNVEILING / A14

Assassination of Ninoy: Whodunnit worth revisiting

By Fe Zamora

THE MURDER OF BENIGNO "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. remains a mystery 27 years after it happened at the Manila International Airport.

A one-hour documentary on one of the most pivotal events in contemporary Philippine history will be shown for the first time on the international cable network, History, at 8 p.m. today.

The story of the Aquino assassination was chosen over countless historical accounts from the Philippines because "it is ripe for another telling," said Louis Burnell, All Asia Network general manager for A&E Television Network (AETN), the distributor of History.

"It is exactly the type of show that our viewers love to watch—a seminal moment in history, dramatically recreated and told. The story has not been covered by an international network before, and so our Filipino audience, while familiar with the story, will not have seen a production like this. We also believe that this gripping story will be highly accessible to our regional audience," Burnell said.

The compelling hour-long "The Assassination of Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr." re-examines the unsolved death of a man whom former

ASSASSINATION A6

THE ONE, THE ONLY

Eleksiyon 2010

TO THE MANOR BORN Gibo Teodoro always impresses with his clarity of thought and eloquence. But he seemed initially awkward reaching out to the "masa." Now, he's got that common touch in spades, like this at Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. PHOTO BY ROY

RP deserves to be among world's vibrant economies

Editor's Note: The presidential profiles will be running in no particular order but as the stories come in from our reporters in the field.

By Fe Zamora
(Third of a series)

KISSING BABIES IS not the strong suit of Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard bearer Gilberto Eduardo "Gibo" Cojuangco Teodoro Jr.

At the Bataan Park last March where Teodoro was the guest at the birthday party of his wife, Tarlac Rep. Monica "Nikki" Prieto-Teodoro, the tall, good-looking former secretary of defense stood for some 30 minutes onstage, smiling at the enthusiastic crowd of some 4,000 children and their mothers and grandmothers gathered from depressed barangays by

GIBO A8

"I JUST want my own way." Teodoro says of his falling out with his uncle, Dionisio Cojuangco.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rains mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Naga/Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Antique	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Temperatures are those recorded as of 5 a.m. today

Second FRONTPAGE

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6/42
7 7 3
20 16
16 6

SUERTRES
7 8 3
1 9 7
5 1 9

MEGA MILLIONS
8 2 4 7 4 3

6/45 LUZ-VIS-MIN
9 12 14 23 26 31
P43,461,531.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
7 30 44 45 54 55
P121,861,641.60

Gonzales stands pat on bribe claim

DEFENSE SECRETARY NORBERTO GONZALES yesterday apologized to Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo, saying that he did not mean to "malign" the poll body when he said recently that there were certain poll officials as well as military and police officers who were being offered bribes to rig the May 10 elections.

But Gonzales, in an hour-long meeting with Melo, stood pat on his claim that there were reports that he had received which the poll body must be alert about.

"He clarified his statement and said that he did not intend to malign Comelec and the chairman accepted his explanation. We agreed we will continue to open the line of communication," Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez told reporters after the meeting.

According to Jimenez, the defense secretary did not name names, saying that he did not want to "precipitate" matters.

The night before, Gonzales was quoted in Rosvoice, a newspaper publication of the Bayanan, as telling members of the National Defense College in a meeting in Makati City that the report of a bribe attempt had come from an official of the Comelec itself.

He repeated that assertion to reporters but already began through offers of bribes to Comelec officials in exchange for assistance to "two presidential candidates." He said there would also be offers of money to officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

"My intention is to preempt the cheating," Gonzales was quoted by Sunstar.

Gonzales reportedly said the Comelec official who reported the bribe try "refused to be bribed." But he did not name the official.

Jimenez yesterday admitted that the Comelec itself received reports on moves to influence the outcome of the elections.

He quoted Melo as saying, "There will be many attempts but what is important is that they don't succeed."

Despite these reports, Jimenez said the Comelec "was not alarmed."

"We are confident with our preparations, we are confident with the assurance that we have put in place," Jimenez said.

After his meeting with Melo, Gonzales declined to talk to the media. "I just gave them everything I knew," he told reporters quickly before recovering all.

Gonzales' statements since last week on alleged plans to manipulate the presidential and local elections drew flak from various sectors, including lawmakers. On Friday, Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Aquilino Pimentel urged the defense chief to identify those who were allegedly colluding to influence the election results.

If he chooses give names, Gonzales should be fired for making fears and creating political instability ahead of the May 10 balloting, the two senators said.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada dared Gonzales to name other the officials whose he said had already assured to lay the groundwork for cheating in the elections.

"As secretary of defense, you should help in ensuring clean and credible elections," he said.

Estrada, however, agreed with the senators that the defense chief should stop making statements that tend to sow fear among Filipinos, especially those that raise the specter of a failure of elections.

"It doesn't help. It creates fear among the people. The people get more afraid because of his statements. He should not have said those things," Estrada said. With a report from Krizzia Alave

Lim, Querubin put one over jailers, manage to address supporters

FORMER SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO Estrada Lim and former Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, who are both awaiting Senate trials, managed to address a gathering of members of the Brotherhood that they had thrashed on Friday night through "take 80" phone calls while detained in high-security military and police camps on mutiny charges.

"Take 80" is military parlance **translates to taking a chance and** getting away with it. The move is not really considered wrong but is not usually done.

Lim and Querubin, in separate phone patches, addressed the Guardians Brotherhood Inc. National Founders Congress held at the Great Eastern Hotel in Quezon City. The two, both founders of the group, thanked members for their support throughout the campaign.

Lim is detained at the Camp Crame custodial center along with Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who stands accused of rebellion in connection with Manila Peninsula siege in November 2007, while Querubin is confined in a cell at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) in Camp Aguinaldo.

The Guardians Brotherhood endorsed the candidacy of Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar, who was the event's guest speaker, and bestowed upon him the honorary title of "Supreme Godfather," after he gives to the group's founders.

Members of the Guardians number 1.2 million, according to organization officials.

Querubin is running for senator under the NP while Lim is a guest candidate of the Liberal Party and the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

Lim addressed the Guardians first in mix of Filipino and English.

"I am hoping that the day will come when the innocence are judged truly innocent and that the persons who have committed real crimes against the nation will be called to account for their acts while in office. Our fight shall continue even in detention, our fight for truth, justice and for what is right... a fight for truly meaningful changes," he said.

Querubin's phone patch, his first public address since he joined the senatorial race, came nearly an hour later. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has denied Querubin's requests for his bough to enable him to campaign, his family has said.

"Should Manny Villar win, we are sure of getting our freedom. If we should get lucky and get a seat in the Senate, we can do many things in he of help to you and our countrymen who are suffering persecution. Only 30 days remain until elections. A little more sacrifice and we will achieve our long-cherished dream of change," he said.

Querubin introduced Villar, who said, "It's nice that the person who introduced me is Ariel himself." Aikko Aclao

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GERMS ARE IN THE AIR.

Misaligned ballots sign of partial automation failure—IT expert

By Alexis Romero

THERE IS ALREADY A PARTIAL failure of poll automation, according to information technology (IT) expert Robert Verzola.

In a forum in Quezon City yesterday, Verzola said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) had already admitted that the ultraviolet security marks on the ballots were misaligned "due to high-speed printing."

This is why the Comelec abandoned the automated authentication of the ballots using an ultraviolet scanning system, he said.

"They shifted to the ultraviolet lamp which will be used by the BEI (Board of Election Inspectors) to manually check if the ballot is real or not. That's already a partial failure of automation [but] not a failure of elections," Verzola explained.

If the ultraviolet security marks were misaligned during the printing of the ballots, logically, the code to be shaded by voters could also be misaligned, he pointed out, as they were printed using the same high-speed printing process.

"If the ovals were misaligned, even if you carefully shade the oval, your shading would be misaligned, too. If your shading is misaligned by one or two millimeters—which is how much the security marks were off—the PCOS machine would not be able to count the votes accurately," Verzola said.

The PCOS machine "will read a vote that is not there or may misread a vote that is there. It will give us inaccurate readings," he said.

Also, the voters would never know if their votes had been recorded accurately by the PCOS machines, he said. The Comelec has falsified the automation law since it would tell voters whether their votes had been recorded accurately or not, Verzola said.

Verzola said this would allow the poll body to easily declare that the automated polls were a success because "no one will notice the problems and no one can complain."

At this late stage in the preparations for the May 10 elections, he recommended that the Comelec feed a sample of between 1,500 and 1,700 ballots into a PCOS machine to test for accuracy. The ballots must be the ones most random in the poll body's specifications of 80,000 per precinct, he said.

Another way to check the accuracy of the PCOS machines is for the Comelec to do a manual count of 20 percent of the 50,000 precincts in the country, instead of the 2.5 percent or 1,100 precincts that the poll body has agreed to do in an agreement by June.

With a 20-percent manual count, "we would have a better chance of really convincing ourselves that these PCOS machines are accurate," Verzola said.

Nationalist Party standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar himself expressed fears of a possible failure of elections resulting from the malfunction of voting machines.

"I don't foresee a failure [of elections] but the possibility is there because the automation of elections is a huge undertaking," Villar told reporters Friday night.

"We've never had an automated election so I have apprehensions," he said. INQ

With report from Nikko Dizon

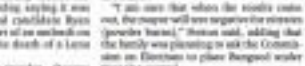
Abra mayor's camp says he was ambush target, not instigator

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CAMP OF BANGUED, ABRA, MAYor Dennisle Valera yesterday turned the tables on a rival, protesting saying it was Valera and not mayoral candidate Ryan Lucas who was the target of an ambush on Thursday that led to the death of a Lucas supporter.

Police have filed murder charges against Valera and one of his police escorts for the death of Lucas's driver, Mario Acosta, during an armed encounter in Barangay Cosili West last week.

Valera, under police custody, is currently confined at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City for problems related to high blood pressure.



At a press conference at the hospital, Valera's lawyer, Raymond Fortun, said it was the client who was fired at. The murder charges against Valera were "totally baseless," he said.

"It's the other way around. The shooting began only when [Valera] spotted us the group. Bullets were being fired from behind. The mayor was the target of the ambush," Fortun told reporters.

According to Fortun, Valera's supporters were allegedly blocked by a vehicle of the Lucas camp. The mayor, who was on a house-to-house campaign in the area, merely wanted to join his supporters.

"It was only when the mayor's vehicle arrived that the shooting began. The shots were coming from behind," Fortun said.

Since Valera's vehicle was not bullet-proof and he was not wearing a bullet-proof vest at the time, the mayor "opened the door of his car and ran to safety in a nearby house and alley.

Fortun said he was confident the panel he met considered as Valera on Friday would show that the indictment never did see the light of day.

"I am sure that when the results come out, the mayor will see negative for nitrates (powder burns)," Fortun said, adding that the family was planning to ask the Commission on Elections to place Bangued under Comelec control.

Fortun criticized the police for not filing charges against the other participants in the clash.

Valera's daughter, congressional candidate Joy Bernos said: "The police are claiming that what happened was an ambush, so there should have been shots fired supposedly from both sides. Why is it that it's only our camp that is being charged?"

Bernos is running against incumbent Rep. Cecilia Luna, the mother of Ryan Lucas.

"We will file counter-charges of murder, including against the eyewitnesses who supposedly saw the incident. We will find out the motivation of the slain driver (what really happened)," Fortun said.

Valera's lawyer also said the mayor would seek the relief of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Abra.

"We want an impartial investigation. The police are supposed to be impartial...but they have filed no report motion to file information. That is supposed to be up to the fiscal, so why are the police meddling?" Fortun said.

Asked about Valera's condition, Fortun said the mayor was still being medically treated but that he did not suffer a heart attack.

A medical bulletin said the mayor would be transferred out of the coronary care unit once his condition improved.

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No sorry from me —Noynoy

LIBERAL PARTY (LP) presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said yesterday he did not owe Guido Delgado and his wife an apology after they turned false reports on his suicidal claim.

Aquino told reporters it was obvious that Delgado, former National Power Corp. president and a self-proclaimed supporter of Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Manny Villar, had only had intentions "about to come out with a second psychiatric report that he already knew to be false."

He said it was absurd for the Delgados to demand an apology from him when it was clear that they were the ones in the wrong.

"It was their responsibility that were present, false that how come they were no response to it? They want me to undergo a psychiatric test with their own doctor who has already done a psychiatric test report on me?" said Aquino. GMANews.tv

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Learning Environments in Alternative and Distance Education (LEADE) (May 17-21, 2010) – engages the participant to manage and conduct alternative, interactive, and online courses with focus on the theories, approaches, and methods of online and distance education. Deadline for registration is May 11, 2010.

Courseware for Open and Distance Education (CODE) (May 24-28, 2010) – enables the participant to develop course structures, write modules and develop evaluation system. Deadline for registration is May 17, 2010.

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P50-M bribe offer to free Ampatuans a text joke–PNP

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police (PNP) yesterday dismissed as "rumor" a report saying some jail officials had been offered P50 million to let members of the Ampatuan clan linked to the Maguindanao massacre escape from high-security prison in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Director Eugene Martin, PNP intelligence chief, said results of an initial investigation showed that the alleged plot to free the Ampatuans from the Quezon City Jail-National Police Custodial Center a prank text message sent by a jail guard to a colleague.

In his report to PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa, Martin said rumors of an escape plan "are coming and no such plot exists."

Martin said the story was apparently triggered by an exchange of "text jokes" between SPO2 Angelito Edward Bautista North Quiboa, both assigned to the tightly guarded prison compound inside Camp Bagong Diwa.

The purported plan to spring the Ampatuans was disclosed to the media by QCJA acting Warden Supt. Clenaro Lubay.

In an interview with GMA 7 news, Lubay had said that he was asked by a fellow Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) official to let the Ampatuans escape in exchange for P50 million.

But Martin said Lubay himself "revealed the existence of (text-a-) plot."

Martin said: "As documented by investigators, SPO4 Quiboa sent a text message to SPO1 Dionisio saying, 'Pinahuhuthutan nakin ako ng 50M sama ka raday ng 25M mayamaya ko na downpayment 10M. Clue's how ikaw Raday the P50 million. Mi will have P25 million each. I already received P10 million as downpayment.)'."

"The reported escape plot was determined to be part of a barrack joke among the jail guards," the PNP intelligence chief said.

Nonetheless, he said, BJMP officials had ordered the implementation of stricter security measures in and around the jail compound where 53 suspects in the Maguindanao massacre, among them six Ampatuan clan members, are currently detained.

He said Verzosa had also directed the heightening of intelligence gathering "to thwart any attempt to spring the massacre suspects from detention."

Sicat wins new term as PSE chair

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORMER BANGKO SENTRAL GOVernor Rafael Buenaventura Sicat was reelected chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) for a second term during the annual stockholders' meeting of the demutualized exchange yesterday.

But while the PSE, which is 20 percent owned by stock brokers, elected a new set of directors to fill its 15-member board for 2010, it has yet to pick a new president to take the place of lawyer Francis Lim who quit in February.

Seven of the 15 board seats were taken by brokers, filling the maximum representation allowed by the Securities Regulation Code for trading participants. Under the law, majority or at least eight of the PSE board seats must be occupied by non-brokers.

Six of the broker-directors under the new board were reelected: Ms. Vivian Panlilio (First Boulevard Management Corp.), Ricardo Tanjoco (Gomez-Tanjunatco), Dennis Chua (Nomura Capital Equities & Securities Corp.), Ismael Cruz (IDC Securities), Eddie Gobing (Lucky Securities) and Alejandro To (BA Lite Securities).

Francis Chua of BA Securities, who was a director before 2009, was elected to the board this year.

Other academic directors elected yesterday were: domingo Martinez (Liberty Telecoms Holdings Inc. president and chief operating officer), Omobitz Tiangco (representing other market participants under the endorsement of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants), Jaime Bautista (general manager of San Miguel Corp. Retirement Fund) and Estrella Elamparo Cheah (counsel of the Government Service Insurance System).

Sicat and three other elected directors—Carmelo Peralta, Jose Luis Javier and Clarence Ong—were considered "independent," or not affiliated with any company listed on the exchange.

How oldest bet connects with youth

By Norman Bordadora

PROBABLY THE OLDEST SENIOR citizen aspirant in the country, Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile has been running for election since the 1970s.

The veteran politician, however, believes he has managed to connect with yet another generation of voters as he is well within the seniors' circle, according to pre-election surveys conducted since the start of the campaign period.

"Everywhere I go, when I mention old phrases, people applaud and thank me for what I have done and accomplished so far with respect to this advocacy," Enrile told the Inquirer.

"I have connected with the youth and even with children. Wherever I go around the country, they greet me with 'Manong Johnny' na 'Senador' and 'Gusto ko happy ka (I want you to be happy)!' even children who are innocent," he said.

Enrile confirmed telecommunications executives in a Senate inquiry last year when he realized that he had lost initial phone credits even when he didn't call or text anybody.

After youth groups praised him for using their campaign ads about lost hands, Enrile hinted an advocacy that would connect him to the country's teeming young people.

"Yes, I find it necessary to connect with the younger generation. I have to tell them who I am, what I can do for them, what I have done for them and what I will do for them," he said.

"Like any other citizens of the country, if they have a problem, I want to solve it for them...if I have the solution. In the case of cell phones, it just so happened that I myself was a victim," he said.

As of 2008, there are 68 million Filipinos "who are cell phone users ... it is a popular term and almost everyone can identify with the problem of disappearing load. This particular example has been effective on the campaign trail," Enrile says. "Everyone identifies with the issue. Even estjaleros, to those collared workers, to street vendors."

Besides, Enrile believes that even senior citizens like himself will find it difficult to be ill-found without utility gadgets that do everything from taking pictures, playing games, shooting videos and, yes, making calls.

"I do not think anyone in this day and age can still function efficiently without a cell phone. (And) for (his) anymore," he added.

"Cellphones have become an integral part of our daily routines. If you are in a remote place, that is your easiest way to reach the outside world," he added.

A politician of the old school, Enrile admitted to being chronic on the mobile phone.

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'Morong 43' finally out of military detention

By Nikko Calaoa and Marlon Ramos

THURSDAY OF THE HEALTH WORKers that are part of the arrested group known as the 'Morong 43' were transferred to the Metro Manila Children Audio Theater, Taguig City from Fort Bonifacio, yesterday.

The health workers were taken on eight military trucks (updated) to heavily armed military escorts. They arrived at the prison facility inside Camp Bagong Diwa at around 5 p.m.

Chief Supt. Serafin Barretto Jr., head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Metro Manila, said the transfer was in compliance with a commitment order issued by Judge Amanilyn Grimaldo Cruz of Morong Regional Trial Court Branch 78 on Friday.

Barretto said the health workers will be held on the top floor of a two-story building. The floor has 10 cells that can accommodate up to five people each.

The building's ground floor houses 127 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Renee Dalmot, husband of one of the 38 health workers, said they were happy with the transfer.

"We have been asking for their transfer to a civilian jail for several months now. For three months, the 43 suffered physical and psychological torture while detained at Camp Capinpin," said Dalmot, who is leading a rally of activists and relatives of the Morong 43 in front of Camp Bagong Diwa.

He said the health workers miss their wives more severe at once "because they lived with their captors inside the camp."

Lesdey, the Philippine National Police wanted to take custody of the Morong 43, saying the jail in Camp Crame was recommended.

The health workers were returned to Camp Capinpin, the headquarters of the PNP's 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay.

Five of the 43 have admitted to being members of the communist New People's Army and are being considered as state witnesses, according to the military.

The transfer of the health workers to Rizal should dispel any notions the military had been holding them arbitrarily, an army spokesperson said yesterday.

"We hope the jail transfer would douse unwarranted speculations against the military," Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr. said in a phone interview.

The Daily Gospel

Sunday, May 2, 2010
5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 14:21-27

After proclaiming the gospel in that town and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and Iconium and on to Antioch. There they strengthened the disciples and encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, for they said, "We must go through many trials to enter the Kingdom of God." In each church they appointed elders and, after praying and fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had placed their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia, and came to Pamphylia. They preached the Word in Perga and went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had first been commended to God's grace for the task they had now completed.

On their arrival they gathered the Church together and told them all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the non-Jews.

2nd Reading: Rev 21:1-5a

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city coming down from God, out of heaven, adorned as a bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne, "Here is the dwelling of God among mankind. He will pitch his tent among them and they will be his people. He will be God with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the world of the past has passed away."

The One seated on the throne said, "See, I make all things new." And then he said to me, "Write this, words because they are sure and true."

Gospel: Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

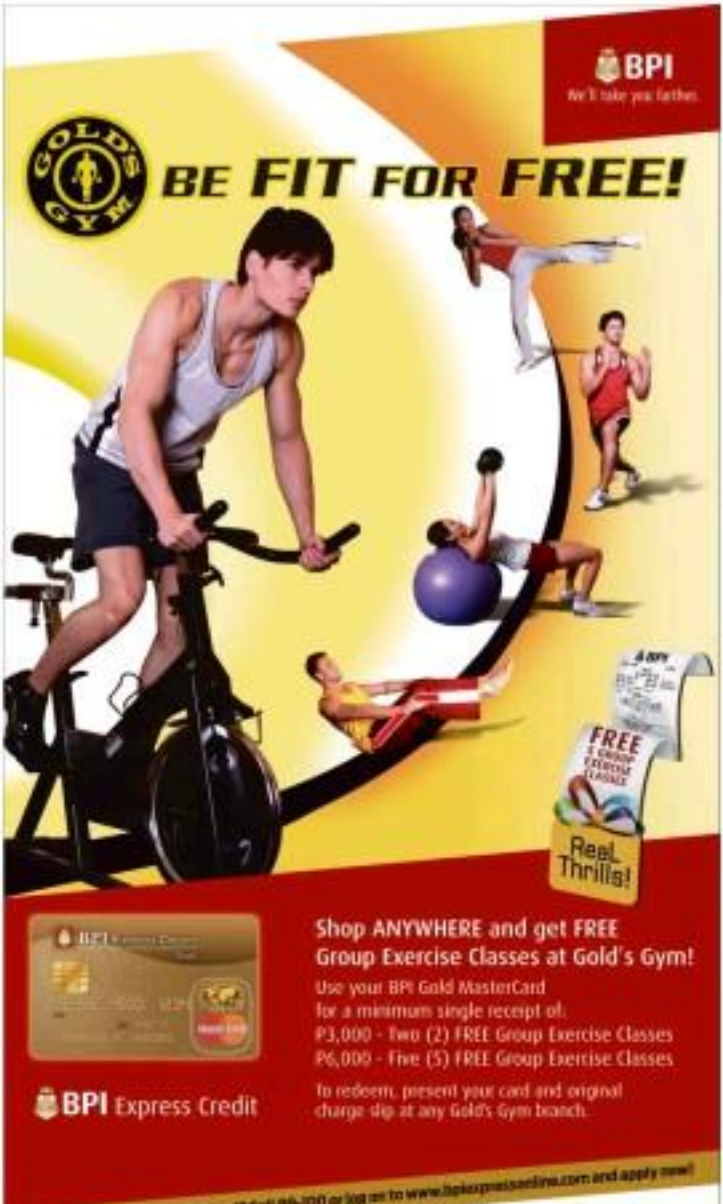
When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. God will glorify him, and he will glorify him very soon.

"My children, I am with you for only a little while; you will look for me, but, as I already told the Jews, so now I tell you: where I am going you cannot come. Now I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Commentary:

After Judas had left, Jesus said: Now the Son of Man's glory is complete; now God's glory is revealed through him.

Everything in him—both good and bad—is in the end meant for our growth, meant for our good, freely and in willing love if that way.



No deal, Marcoses claim

From page A2

son family with him as the latter's representative, he said.

"We, Manolo sought and got a meeting with an Ayer Tandang thumgh a common friend, Mr. Willie Villanueva, that as Mr. Villanueva can answer there was no discussion of a deal. I thought it was just a social meeting. He (Villanueva) mentioned of the possibility of discussing a settlement, (...) and (that) the cases are all to zero. And that was the end of our conversation," Antonio said.

"Portraying this matter as a midnight deal is absurd. It makes no sense for the Marcos family to hold talks at this time with the Aquino administration when it has only two months to go in its term. Only some political quarters seeking publicity stand to benefit," he said.

Who's Gregory?

Lawyer Francisco Chavez yesterday wondered the PCGG against forging a settlement with the Marcos heirs, saying he would go to court to stop it.

Chavez has called for the resignation of all PCGG officials, from Chair Camilo Sabido down to the commissioners, and the abolition of the agency.

He dismissed Malacañang's claim that it was not aware of the PCGG's proposed settlement with the Marcoses.

"Who is negotiating with Abogado Gregorio Ananova. Who is Gregory Ananova? He's the cousin of Mike Arroyo. Who is Mike Arroyo? He's married to somebody who is cousin to the President. That is where the power resides. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to come up with the total picture after you've connected the dots. It's all Palace-orchestrated," he said.

"The commissioners should all be reminded that it's not a question of posts or positions. It's a question of principle, of honor, and the vindication of wrongs inflicted upon our people," said Chavez, the volunteer general of the Aquino administration that created the PCGG.

Chavez warned that the moment such an agreement is forged, he would go straight to the Supreme Court to have it annulled.

Nothing wrong

Sabido, who maintained that there was nothing wrong with negotiating a settlement with the Marcos heirs, refused to comment on Ananova's statement yesterday.

"There is no harm in exploring the possibility of a settlement. I have been portrayed as a villain for exploring this possibility" he said in a phone interview.

He said the Supreme Court had in numerous decisions encouraged pursuing a settlement with the Marcoses.

"I won't be saying these things scrupulously without the legal background to it," he said.

He said people have "praised me" for pursuing the settlement.

Successful litigation

As solicitor general, Chavez successfully litigated the government case before the trial courts to secure a permanent freeze on all Marcos assets kept in various Swiss banks.

After the Sandiganbayan antigraft court in 2006 declared the frozen assets—whose value has ballooned from $356 million to $658 million over the years—ill-gotten and forfeited in favor of the government, the way was opened to have the money transferred to the Philippines. It was the single biggest success of the PCGG recovery efforts.

As a private taxpayer, Chavez also considered it grating that Supreme Court to nullify a 1995 secret agreement with the Marcoses, initiated by then PCGG chair Magtanggol Gunigundo, for a 75-25 percent division of the Marcos loota deposits. The deal expired in the closing of criminal cases against the Marcoses and exempting them from any tax liability.

The high court junked the agreement in 1998 and enjoined the PCGG from entering into any agreement with the Marcos heirs concerning their ill-gotten wealth.

Chavez, however, said Abogado's new search of to revive these unpopular settlement agreements which he said were "not only unconstitutional, but downright immoral and illegal."

He said the government should not settle with the Marcoses under any circumstances because there were still many ill-gotten wealth cases pending in the courts.

He said he himself has been testifying for the past eight years, and continues to testify on the cases against the Marcoses.

"Why enter into this agreement when there are still those criminal cases?" he said.

Palace to review proposal

In a statement, Secretary Ronaldo Saludo, Mr. Arroyo's spokesperson, said the PCGG will have to discuss any proposed settlement and submit this to Malacañang for review.

"Before institutions again create undue alarm, let's remember that any proposed PCGG settlement on hidden wealth will be closely reviewed, first by the Department of Justice, the supervising agency of the PCGG, then by the Office of the President," he said.

"The PCGG draft also have to make public any proposed settlement (for the courts) to expiry cases covered by it," he added.

The goal, he stressed, was to "finally get back the ill-gotten gains that past governments since 1986 did not recover."

Mayroy to rescind deal

In Urdaneta, Pangasinan, where he was on a campaign trip, Liberal Party candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III said that he would rescind the reported P140-billion compromise agreement with the Marcos family and any other midnight deals hatched during Ms. Arroyo's last few months in office, if elected.

But Aquino said he would abide by all legal requirements.

"One of the things I first learned when I was a congressman is that even if the deal is not covered by a signature to public interest it cannot be revoked just like that. We will have to go through the legal process to be able to make sure what we are doing is in accordance with our jurisprudence. It is frustrating but that is the doctrine," he said.

Very thorough review

He would get legal advice before proceeding with any action, but all midnight deals will be reviewed, he said.

"If it is injurious to the common good and public interest, I am compelled to review such a deal. However if done in good faith, it is not a unilateral act," said Aquino.

He said he would also seek an immediate review of the PCGG, one of the five agencies created by his mother, President Corazon Aquino, in 1986.

He said the agency's litigation functions should be transferred to the justice department and its administrative functions to the Presidential Management Staff.

"That way it's immediately under the Office of the President. I'm not thinking of the President, but the next President," he said.

"The PCGG was conceived in years, honestly conceived in sin, and I will die in sin. It's no better than a whole lot of its ways to the public," he said. With Till C. Calica in Agoo, B.

Gibo Teodoro: RP deserves to be . . .

From page A1

Quezon City Rep. Annie Susano.

Other politicians would have traded in, bragged the children, blasted the enemies and their brothers, grandmothers and even gay relatives—and connected with and won the allegiance of the mass.

But not Teodoro. Or Dad dog, he and his pretty wife appeared lost and in a daze up on the stage with their seven children and Aquino.

Susano, who has since joined Teodoro in join another presidential candidate, actually provided the cue early on. Before climbing the stage, she joined the kids and their mothers on the ground, shouting on what to do—shouting and shaking their fists to cheer for the candidate worthy of being a role model.

"We all want our children to be engaging at maraming (bright and intelligent). Sino si Gibo Teodoro?" she shouted.

However, who is running for mayor of Quezon City, was effective in the front act. The main star, Teodoro, flopped.

Gushing fans

But before an audience of the upper crust, Teodoro is a box-office winner.

Lawyer Chrodoro de la Serna was gushing after hearing Teodoro speak as a forum for the presidential candidates in Makati City Rotary Club, he is also only one who like their policy statements," she said.

De la Serna had earlier heard very good words about Teodoro from her boss, former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza. It was in Mendoza's law firm that Teodoro cut his teeth as a litigation lawyer in years, starting as a bar topnotcher in 1989.

It was also Teodoro's eloquence and charm of mind that impressed a group of retired generals a few months after he was appointed to the Defense portfolio in 2007.

After his speech before the Philippine Military Academy alumni and the open forum that followed, a retired general in the audience sent a text message to a journalist: "What do you think? Gibo Teodoro for President?"

No luxury of time

The old figure were thrilled at the prospect of another defense secretary in Malacañang, a la Ramon Magsaysay in the early 1950s.

But Teodoro doesn't have the luxury of time.

Others informally declared that he was running for president under the ruling Lakas-Kampi (CMD), he had yet to make headway not only in wiping out the communist insurgency but also in overcoming the deep hatred Moslem group and in finally settling the separatist problem posed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

In a forum early on in the campaign, Teodoro spelled out what he thought was lacking in governments. "It doesn't matter what is to be generated by government, it is confidence," he said. If elected, Teodoro hopes to bring that confidence back in government.

Visions for dynamic nation

"The Philippines deserves a place among the most vibrant emerging economies of the world. The country does not want for talent, and resources. What we lack is the institutional capital that will enable the country to seize these opportunities before it, a legal and policy framework that will enable us to extract a larger share of investment flows; a bureaucracy that makes doing business easier; a security or public that will finally enable more than the last few provinces to command respect in the world; and an educational system that will produce the highly skilled workforce that will bring us to the cutting edge of the new economy," he also said in his campaign platform "My Vision for a Dynamic Nation."

Only child 'Libby'

Teodoro was born on June 14, 1964, in Isabela to Gilberto C. Teodoro, who would become administrator of the Social Security System, and Herminia Cojuangco, who was elected member of the interim and regular Batasang Bambansa during Ferdinand Marcos' regime.

He was named after his father and his uncle, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco (his mother's brother), who is also Eduardo's godson, and after Liberal Party standard-bearer Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino III is a second-degree cousin.

As an only child, Teodoro was naturally doted on by his mother. She called him Gibo, but his mates knew him Gibby" or "Libby."

Rapa Lopa, also a second-degree cousin, said he played basketball with Teodoro at the Cojuangco compound in New Manila, Quezon City, in their youth.

"He were kids, and cousins. We played together," Lopa said.

Recalled Danding Cojuangco's son Charlie: "It's like, if you break my toy, I'll break yours."

After completing a bachelor's degree in economics at De La Salle in 1986, Teodoro went to the University of the Philippines College of Law, where he graduated with a Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence.

He did not disappear his alma mater when he topped the bar in 1989.

Danding's influence

Government service was not what Teodoro's father would have wanted for his only child.

According to one of the cousins, the eldest Teodoro would have attended his cousin Ferdinand Marcos' banker or a finance whiz. But Cojuangco "influenced" the young Teodoro by introducing him to politics early on via the Kabataang Barangay (KB), then led by Marcos' eldest child Imee.

In 1986's Snap election, then 16, was elected KB president in Tarlac. He went on to lead the KB in Central Luzon and to become a member of the Tarlac Sangguniang Panlalawigan at the time that his mother was the Tarlac representative in the National Assembly.

"Danding is Gibo's mentor in politics. There's not a secret among the Cojuangcos," said businessman and civil society member Eleanor "Boy" Segovia.

The godfather

In 1992, Cojuangco founded the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) as a vehicle for his presidential candidacy.

The industrialist eventually had to enlist primed Fidel V. Ramos, then the administration party's presidential candidate (in the NPC), which grew deep roots in congressional districts and in local government units.

In 1995, soon after acquiring a master's degree from the Harvard Law School in the United States, Teodoro casts home to begin a new chapter in politics.

According to Segovia, the idea of launching Teodoro's political career was handled by Cojuangco and his cousin, Jose "Pepito" Cojuangco Jr., who was his boss and an opponent—two of Tarlac's first district after three terms.

"The cousins talked, and they agreed to give the first district to Gibo, and the fourth district to Ninoy," Segovia said.

Teodoro's campaign was in their respective districts. Teodoro would also become the president of the NPC.

Did Nikki cause rift?

But things soured between Teodoro and Cojuangco-Aquino in 2007 when Teodoro, who was completing his 9-year term in the House, allowed his wife Nikki to run for his seat over a candidate endorsed by Cojuangco.

"It was done on the 11th hour. Danding was disappointed," said Segovia, who has had business dealings with Cojuangco.

But Teodoro denied this in an earlier interview. "Nikki was the unanimous choice," he said.

In June 2007, Teodoro bowed out of Congress, where he had served as assistant majority leader and member of the House committees on the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

His wife, a former commercial model who studied in Switzerland, won his seat in the first district of Tarlac.

Two months later, in August 2007, Teodoro was named defense secretary.

But the gap between Teodoro and Aquino widened.

Other sources said the rift actually started after the NPC's failed attempt to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide in 2003.

Anybody but Gibo'

Asked what really happened between him and his uncle, Teodoro said: "I just went on my own way."

He admitted that they had not spoken for some time.

The first feelings appear to be normal. Months ago, asked by reporters after her family was running for in the presidential race, Cojuangco's wife Gretchen said emphatically: "Anybody but Gibo."

Teodoro suspended charges saying that family matters and that feelings should take the back seat to "national issues."

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19. GUINGONA, Teofisto III D. "TG"
36. LAO, Saandi B. "YES"
40. OSMEÑA, Sergio III D. "SERGE"
7. BAZAR, Razzano Rufino B. "RUFFY"
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29. HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL, Ana Rosa "ROSA HONTIVEROS"
14. DRILON, Franklin M. "FRANK"

MAY DAY MARCH Militant workers led by senatorial candidate Satur Ocampo and Lisa Maza march on Quezon Bridge from Quiapo, Manila, as Filipino workers nationwide commemorate International Labor Day with protest rallies and marches.

KOMEMBRENG KA BEL Rosa Beltran, widow of Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran, raises a clenched fist in front of Liberian rebel-turned-Liberian labor leader during his speaking at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo in commemoration with yesterday's celebration of Labor Day. Plaza Miranda has a special meaning for Mrs. Beltran who met her husband there. Six days later, they were married.

Satur: Scrap wage boards

By Michael Lim Ubac
and TJ Burgonio

FOR FAILING TO RAISE THE plight of minimum wage earners in the private sector since 1988, the regional tripartite wages and productivity boards nationwide should be abolished, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said yesterday.

Ocampo, a joint senatorial candidate of the Nationalist Party (NP), raised the call on the heels of a statement by Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito Roque that the Philippines' wage was "the second lowest in the world."

Financial crisis? A survey conducted by the United Bank of Switzerland, he said, ranked the Philippines' minimum wage as the lowest wage in the world, followed by workers in Mumbai, India.)

Ocampo said President Macapagal-Arroyo's successor should move to make up for the across-the-board wage freeze that prevailed under her administration.

He said the next President's top priorities should include higher wages and benefits for laborers.

"That is the first means that will give workers economic relief," he said, adding that only the government's woes of losing revenues had increased, these were "still far from actual ones."

In the National Capital Region, the cost of living for a family of six stands at P917 daily, while the minimum wage is still pegged at P382.

But the real value of the P382 is only P36.37 given the peso's declining purchasing power, Ocampo said.

"This has to be remedied," he said, pointing out that the scrapping of Republic Act No. 6727, or the Wage Rationalization Act, was long overdue.

Created by RA 6727, the regional wage boards are attached to the Department of Labor and Employment.

'RA 6727 suppresses wages'

"The wages of workers nationwide have increased only by an average of P18.75 over-the-year since this law was implemented in 1988," Ocampo said.

"Price of basic goods and utility rates, however, have increased a hundredfold within the same time frame. The quality of life of most working-class families continues to deteriorate because RA 6727 suppresses wages and allows the greatest exploitation of workers," he said.

He added that the RA 6727 enacted under the Aquino presidency was "in the eyes of the very dictator and highly exploitative wage setting system in the country."

But according to Ms Arroyo, minimum wage earners should take heart because their pay is higher than their richer Asian neighbors.

"Despite the good news in office to her Labor Day speech, Ms Arroyo tried to modify minimum wage earners by calling attention to the jobs that she created and the pay rise came with them during her nine years in office.

She said the country had come a long way since the turbulent Labor Day in 2001, which was marked by an attack on Malacañang by angry supporters of her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada. "I hope our painful memories of that time, when we were in turmoil and were on the brink of bankruptcy, have been erased," she said in her address at the Hall of Asean Governors Center in Pasay City.

Ms Arroyo said the minimum wage was favorable to Filipino workers, compared with that of other countries.

"The monthly pay deposits on every region, ranging from $148 to $256. This is higher than the minimum wage in China, India, Indonesia and Thailand. If you want to think of it, Thailand, Indonesia and China are richer than us. And soon, we will be at par with the pay in Malaysia, which is richer than us," she said.

Ms Arroyo said that in 2001, in the aftermath of her ouster over to power following then Vice President Estrada's ouster, investors shunned the country, jobs were unavailable, and inflation was at an all-time high.

"The country's debt was even higher than our GDP (gross domestic product)," she said in her last Labor Day speech as President, which was aired live over the government's cable.

'21 quarters' of growth

But by adopting economic reforms, such as the revenue-raising measure of that time, which was the value-added tax, Ms Arroyo said the country experienced "21 quarters" of growth, and produced 9 million jobs since.

"When I first came in, 27 million had jobs. Now, there are 36 million employed. I've created 9 million jobs. So in my nine years as President, an average of 1 million a year was employed," she said.

In contrast, the jobs that were created nationally from 1987 to 2001 averaged around more than 500,000, Ms Arroyo said. *With reporter from Kristine L. Alave*

Unveiling of Ka Bel's relief marks . . .

News page A2

Labor Day march on Lirasan Boni. Inset is Manila.

members of militant labor and other poor organizations took part in the afternoon march, which was marked by the burning of a life-size effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in a demotion cell.

The effigy dubbed "Hukbayan ni Gloria," symbolized the workers' desire to make Ms Arroyo accountable for their "suffering" under her administration, according to Elizabeth Gardiner, media liaison of the labor coalition Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).

Another highlight of the Labor Day commemoration was the workers' assessment of Ms Arroyo's nine-year term and the presentation of the labor agenda to candidates for the presidency.

The documentation said record-high unemployment, depressed wages and gross abuse of workers' rights characterized the Arroyo administration.

"Three conditions should be overturned by the next government," they said.

At the center

The unveiling of the bas-relief brought together politicians from varying colors of the opposition—Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, both guest speakers at yesterday's rally; Makabayan bloc Representative Teddy Casiño; the Liberal Party's Alfredo Lim, the redoubtable mayor of Manila; and currently "patrimony" Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero.

"Even when Ka Bel was alive, he was at the center of the people of very [small] color. He was opposition to. When it came to the interest of the labor sector, the urban poor, Ka Bel was able to relate to all people, whatever color they were," said Divine's daughter Odd Beltran.

"Especially with the elections coming, we wish that opportunity to bring together everyone who respected Ka Bel," she said.

Bulacan said Mayor Lim offered to make a memorial for her father next after he passed away, and later funded the separate installation of the marker and has exiled.

"Since we will not have everyday. We can't say that Ka Bel has left us. Even if it's just a sculpture, he is there and his family and the people will be able to see him," Beltran told the listeners.

Beltran died of head injuries on May 30, 2008. Then 75, he was fixing a leak on the roof of the family home in Bulacan when he slipped and fell head first to the ground.

He was then on his third term as a party-list representative.

A staunch critic of the administration, Beltran had survived incarceration following his involvement in massive protest actions in the height of calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation in 2005 and 2006.

Bias for labor

At the unveiling, a wreath bearing red ribbons—the color representing the militant struggle—was offered along with smaller floral arrangements with yellow and orange ribbons.

"Ka Bel as a person was very likable, especially on a personal basis. You have to respect for very strong bias for labor and know that he will not give up, but even when there were times that he felt tired or frustrated because," said Ocampo, who had many times marched beside Beltran.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said the country's presidential candidates should look up to Beltran who made no compromises and never wavered in his advocacy.

"He's an icon of the labor movement, he's recognized whatever your affiliations may be, whatever your political color may be, you look at Ka Bel—uncompromising, principled, steadfast, a simple man. That should be emulated even by the presidentiables," Reyes said.

Beltran's widow Rosario said the bas-relief would be not only a memorial for her husband but a daily reveal of Day in November 1956 when she met him, then a student, in Plaza Miranda.

They married 14 days later and had 13 children together.

"A while ago, I had a flashback and thought I could not afford not to keep coming back here. He is here," the widow said, smiling.

"On the 28th, his death anniversary, we will see each other again. My joke is that I'll see Ka Bel again standing here," she said.

No labor agenda

KMU chair Elmer Labog said that while all the presidential candidates were claiming to be pro-poor and pro-worker, no one had presented a concrete, long-term agenda for the labor sector.

"We want to hear [how they will] address low wages, joblessness, labor migration, poor working conditions and violations of labor rights and standards," he said.

The demonstrators also called on the candidates to back legislation on a significant wage increase for workers, promote workers' rights, and reverse laws promoting contractual and flexible labor arrangements.

Bayan's Reyes said the next President making a firm commitment to raise workers' wages and increase their benefits, the next president should also reverse the Arroyo's economic policies, including what he described as "the supposed economic gains" of the administration.

"This is why Arroyo's last Labor Day like should have made it meaningful by giving the workers additional wages, and an additional day off," Reyes said. "The next President should do better by addressing labor issues."

Malacañang has declared May 3 a nonworking holiday as part of its "holiday economics" program.

"This move just shows the lack of respect the administration has for the significance of International Labor Day," Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said, her sister did not recognize the May 3 holiday.

Police said the commemoration of Labor Day was generally peaceful.

As around 1 p.m., various groups converged at Blumentritt corner Recto Ave., Quezon City to welcome Tudi Pascua, and Nilda Pantoja in Tondo before proceeding to Liwasang Bonifacio for the main program at 2 p.m.

As of 3 p.m., Manila policemen estimated the crowd at 6,000 to 8,000. But protest organizers put the figure at 20,000.

DOST offers 432 S&T Graduate Scholarships

to study in one of the Philippines' pool of universities and colleges, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is offering 432 graduate scholarship slots for school year (SY) 2010-2011.

DOST, through the Science Education Institute (SEI), is offering 300 slots for Master of Science (MS) Degree and 75 slots for Doctoral Degree (PhD).

DOST Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro said the government's graduate scholarship programs is a manifestation of the government's commitment to increase and enhance competitiveness of the country's human capital on research and development.

The graduates from these programs will join the existing cadre of engineers and scientists who is to carry out technology innovation and assistance to the industry and the academe. Graduates are dedicated to sustain our support to industry and especially to the S&T human resource," she said.

SEI Director Dr. Rowil R. Sigeza said the priority research disciplines/fields of science and technology to improve the development these thrusts that would propel the nation's economy to higher level of development.

"Research, especially in the sciences, remains one of the areas of need that developing countries like ours should invest in order to attain high productivity economies. The generation of scientific knowledge is important in promoting the foundations for the upgrading of underlying productive capacities," he said.

Under the Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development (ASTHRD) Program, DOST is offering the slots for MS Degree and 20 for PhD. Applicants to this program may avail of a University Based SEI-PhD Program (UBSP) or a Thesis/Dissertation Program for PhD (private sector).

Applicants who are eligible to the ASTHRD should either be professionals doing research or science teachers in the basic education level. Those on-going MS/PhD students in priority S&T fields and with DOST scholarship grants. Filipino citizens, not more than 35 years old at the time of application, a holder of a bachelor's degree in a priority S&T field, good health condition, have passed the admission requirements for graduate studies in any of the DOST identified institutions, and who can commit the necessary and effective screening process.

Those applications should also fall under the priority fields of study of DOST which are Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Biological Sciences, Biotechnology, Chemical Sciences, Earth, Atmospheric and Space Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Information and Communication Technology, Materials Science and Nanotechnology, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Health and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Physics and Applied Physics.

In the Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT) Program, priority fields are open for MS students and courses for PhD.

Applicants to the ERDT Program should have a bachelor degree in engineering or related field and must have 48 units of MS or PhD. Other qualifications, process details, a questionnaire, and have passed the admission requirements to graduate studies in any of the DOST consortium universities.

Their specialization should fall under the DOST priority fields of study which include computer engineering, electronics engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, geodetic engineering, geological engineering, industrial engineering, marine engineering, metallurgical engineering, mining engineering, petroleum engineering, materials science engineering, metallurgical engineering, nuclear engineering, sanitary engineering, agricultural engineering.

Qualified scholars under the ASTHRD and ERDT Programs will enjoy free tuition, monthly stipends, book allowances, transportation allowances, group insurance and research allowances.

Deadline of application for this SY 2010-2011 grant for the first semester is on May 14, 2010 and September 17, 2010 for the second semester. For the ERDT Program, deadline of applications for the second semester is on September 10, 2010. However for those taking up their graduate studies at the Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT), application cannot be the same as the deadline in April 30, 2010 for the first and for the second semester October to December 2010.

Application forms may be secured and filed at the SEI office or at any of the consortium universities/colleges including Ateneo de Manila University, Central Luzon State University, De La Salle University, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, University of the Philippines System, UP-Los Baños, UP-Manila, UP-Visayas, University of the Philippines Diliman, University of San Carlos, and MIT.

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Transportation Allowance/Travel Allowance	6,000	10,000
Thesis Assistance	6,000/sy	10,000/sy
Dissertation Assistance		60,000

Grantee may be entitled to other benefits subject to availability of funds and terms of agreement

WHERE TO SECURE/FILE APPLICATION

SCIENCE / ENGINEERING-RELATED UNIVERSITIES	DOST COUNCILS
Mariano Marcos University (MMMU) [illegible]	Science Education Institute www.sei.dost.gov.ph
Central Luzon State University (CLSU) [illegible]	Department of Science and Technology www.dost.gov.ph
De La Salle University (DLSU) [illegible]	Philippine Council for Advanced Science & Technology Research & Development (PCASTRD) www.dlsu.edu.ph/research/pcastrd
Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) [illegible]	Philippine Council for Industry & Energy Research & Development (PCIERD) www.pcierd.dost.gov.ph
University of the Philippines - Diliman (UPD) [illegible]	Philippine Council for Health Research & Development (PCHRD) www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph
University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB) [illegible]	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resources Research & Development (PCAARRD) www.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph
University of the Philippines - Manila (UPM) [illegible]	Philippine Council for Aquatic & Marine Research & Development (PCAMRD) www.pcamrd.dost.gov.ph
University of the Philippines - Visayas (UPV) [illegible]	
University of Santo Tomas (UST) [illegible]	
Visayas State University (VSU) [illegible]	

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Book Allowance	[illegible]	[illegible]
Travel/Dissertation Allowance	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stipend	[illegible]	[illegible]
Transportation Allowance	[illegible]	[illegible]

STUDY PLACEMENT AND PRIORITY FIELDS OF STUDY

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Mariano Marcos University (MMMU) [illegible]	Computer Science, Electronics Engineering	Computer Science
Central Luzon State University (CLSU) [illegible]	Agricultural Engineering	Agricultural Engineering
De La Salle University (DLSU) [illegible]	Chemical Eng., Civil Eng., Computer Eng., Computer Science, Electronics & Communications Eng., Environmental Eng., Industrial Eng., Manufacturing Eng., Mechanical Eng.	Chemical Eng., Electronics & Communications Eng., Environmental Eng., Mechanical Eng.
Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT) [illegible]	Civil Eng., Computer Eng., Computer Science, Electronics & Communications Eng., Environmental Eng., Industrial Eng., Materials Science and Eng., Mechanical Eng., Petroleum Eng., Telecommunications Eng.	Environmental Engineering
Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) [illegible]	Civil Eng., Electrical Eng., Environmental Eng., Materials Science and Eng., Mechanical Eng.	Chemical Eng., Materials Science and Eng., Mechanical Eng.
University of the Philippines - Diliman (UPD) [illegible]	Chemical Eng., Civil Eng., Computer Science, Electrical Eng., Energy Eng., Environmental Eng., Industrial Eng., Mechanical Eng., Metallurgical Eng., Materials Science and Eng., Petroleum Engineering	Chemical Eng., Civil Eng., Electrical Eng., Energy Eng., Environmental Eng., Materials Science and Eng.
University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB) [illegible]	Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Eng.	Agricultural Engineering
University of San Carlos (USC) [illegible]	Chemical Eng., Civil Eng., Computer Eng., Computer Science, Electrical Eng., Electronics & Communications Eng., Environmental Eng., Mechanical Eng.	

ERDT

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

University	AY 2010-2011	
	First Batch Filers	Second Batch Filers
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Noynoy admits pitching for Iglesia vote with sisters

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES—LIBERAL PARTY (LP) presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday confirmed that he had met with Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo three times over the last four months in Manila.

Aquino said there were at least three big groups that would announce their support for his candidacy but he refused to say if the INC was among them.

The other groups rumored to be supporting Aquino were the Kingdom of Jesus Christ—Pastor Apostle E. Guidanay is expected to announce his candidacy today—and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

"I think it is best that these organizations themselves announce their support for a candidacy. I don't want to be presumptuous. Every organized bloc helps us in delivering our message to the people. There are 50 million voters and about 40 million are supposed to vote, it makes the job much easier," Aquino said when asked to confirm whether he had begged the Manalo-led religious group.

He said he met with Manalo recently at the INC central office complex in Quezon City without anyone whom he explained the summon and substance of his platform. He said his aunt, Senator Kiko Pangilinan, was present when Manalo, the INC's patron, invited him to dinner

Court junks brother's plea to testify vs Lucio Tan

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SANDIGANBAYAN ANTIGRAFT COURT has junked two motions related to businessman Mariano Tanenglian's efforts to have state witness and tomb against his own brother, tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, in a 22-year old government forfeiture case.

In two resolutions, released on Friday, the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division dismissed Tanenglian's motion to reconsider previous court resolutions denying his offer to turn state witness, and another motion filed by lawyer Catalino Gonzalez seeking the reopening of the presentation of evidence against Tan.

Tanenglian is charged together with Tan with allegedly holding assets that are part of the ill gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. But after a falling out with his brother, Tanenglian offered to turn state's evidence in exchange for immunity.

In January, the court denied Tanenglian's manifestation and motion which asked the court to direct the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to resolve his offer to become a government witness, to reopen the trial in her favor, and to order the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) to give him support their recommendations.

In again denying his appeal, the court said it agreed with Tan as well as with government lawyers that Tanenglian raised the same issues the court had already resolved.

The court noted that it was the prosecution that should be asking for a reopening of the presentation of evidence and not Tanenglian, who is one of the defendants in the case.

In February, the court denied an omnibus motion of lawyer Catalino Gonzalez that sought, among other things, the reopening of the trial so Tanenglian could testify.

The court said Gonzalez, who was part of the prosecution panel against Tan until the OSG terminated his services, was no longer a "real party in interest" in the case.

Gonzalez filed a second motion for reconsideration in March but this was also denied by the court in the resolution released on Friday.

need a job?

COOP-NATCCO PARTY-LIST 139

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

PNP stops sale of guns to recruits

By Marian Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) has revoked the license of a firearms dealer for allegedly selling nearly P4 million worth of handguns to police recruits in central Mindanao.

PNP Director General Jesus Versosa yesterday recommended the filing of charges against officers of PNP Regional Training School 12 who may have connived with the dealer, R. Enginelli Trading.

Aside from canceling its license to operate, Versosa also directed the PNP Civil Security Group to temporarily close down R. Enginelli's storage vault at the Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) building in Camp Crame.

The company was also ordered to turn over to the FED all the firearms on display in its various stores.

According to Director Ifor Magbanua, chief of the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS), representatives of the firearms trading company apprehended 57 police recruits who were undergoing training at the RTS 12 compound in Carmen, Davao City last year.

Magbanua said an IAS investigation found that the trading firm offered to sell pistols of varying types and calibers to the police trainees for P79,000 each, to be paid in cash from the Pulis Ashoy Savings and Loan Association Inc. (PASALA).

R. Enginelli officials also promised to facilitate their "gun loans" from the PASALA.

Magbanua said the transactions were highly irregular as they violated the PNP's policies on loan applications by police personnel.

He explained that police trainees who had yet to finish the required field training program were not entitled to the loan privileges given to regular PNP members.

Those who had finished at least a year at more affordable terms but had not completed the required training that would make their appointments permanent also were not qualified to avail themselves of the automatic salary deduction plan for loan payments, Magbanua said.

Sentences over, gov't helps OFWs leave Saudi prison

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING LEGAL assistance to four overseas Filipino workers who are still in a Saudi Arabia prison after they had served their one-year sentences for harboring another Filipino who had killed an Indian stowaway in 2009.

The Philippine consulate in Jeddah, in a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, said a lawyer was working on the release of Roger Garcia, Crisanto Fortes, Levi Panganiban and Ted Bolan.

The four have been held at Jeddah General Prison since being convicted of harboring Alberto del Rosario who had sought refuge with them shortly after he killed the Indian on Feb. 28, 2009.

Garcia, Cortez, Panganiban and Bolan were each sentenced to one year in prison, while Del Rosario was given the death penalty.

Although the four OFWs had completed their prison terms, Saudi authorities told the consulate they could not be released until their case was separated from the criminal case against Del Rosario.

The case against Del Rosario is under appeal.

The IRS said Del Rosario was neither turned over by the consulate nor did he surrender to the consul general as earlier reported.

It said Del Rosario went to the consulate merely for advice after the killing happened. After being informed of his options, he left the consulate without saying where he was going.

Del Rosario's case is being heard in the Court of Cassation (Court of Appeals) and may be appealed all the way up to the Supreme Judicial Council (Supreme Court) if the lower upholds the decision of the lower court.

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OPINION

Midnight deal

EDITORIAL

THE FIRST STEP PGGG COMMISSIONER RICARDO Abcede—and the administration that appointed him with the same regard it recently appointed a manicurist, gardener and swollen instructor to official posts—made was not, as he put it, his recent meeting with Gregory Araneta. The first step was Abcede's meeting with Imelda Marcos in 2005 to discuss the sale of her shoes and gowns to government custody as requested by the Associated Press, then his inviting Ms Marcos to his birthday party in 2006, which caused a scandal.

That was the same year Abcede told the press that President Macapagal-Arroyo had authorized a policy of entering into compromise agreements with the Marcoses over their many pending civil and other cases. Abcede, too, then started proposing the sale of confiscated assets, such as jewelry still held in government vaults. He has doggedly pursued such schemes, withdrawing them only when public opposition became too vocal and sustained.

And so when he told his recent meeting with Araneta was a first step to a universal settlement of the many Marcos civil cases, he was being less than forthright. The meeting was more like one of the last steps to such a deal.

The low trust ratings of the government guarantee that any proposal by Abcede—or anyone else in the executive department—is basically rash in on the seized Marcos assets, or settle pending issues out of court, would be met with public skepticism and hostility. Not least because Abcede's penchant for schmoozing with Madame Marcos was in stark marked contrast to the late Haydee Yorac's conduct as head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The Supreme Court, in a 1998 ruling, spelled out the limits to official concessions in any compromise. Every report of a possible compromise or settlement with the Marcos family has sparked controversy and has been generally denied. While it is not to say that out-of-court settlements are necessarily against the public interest. But as they say, the devil is in the details.

Back in 2002, Yorac announced that in talks over the $35 million in deposits in a Brunei agency in the United States, Ms Marcos had signified willingness to hand over $10 million to the Philippine government as part of a settlement that would include absolving her of pending civil liabilities. The question then was not the settlement of cases out of court, but whether this would be done primarily for the benefit of the public, and it is well to recall that Yorac ended up resigning from the PCGG in April 2005. Among the things Yorac cried to do was to safeguard, for farmers, the integrity of funds derived from the coconut levy.

After Yorac's departure, the government was freed from the chains of Yorac's integrity. On one hand, this allowed the government to pursue whatever settlements would be open to the administration and the Marcoses; on the other hand, it tainted every potential deal with a presumption of venality on the part of the administration.

Still, things have inched forward, in spite of public skepticism.

President Aquino can publicly step forward and say the worst things (credit), period. The administration was able to embark on the negotiations that bore fruit last year: the government ratified the disputed coconut levy-derived shares it held in San Miguel Corp. into shares that guarantee a fixed yield, but which also makes them convertible shares.

As for the Marcoses, their main principal, the Madame herself, studiously adhered to a friendly policy toward the administration. Her children gamely pursued their ambitions by joining the opposition: helping to keep it in check with incongruous appearances like Imee Marcos' screeching against official thievery in a Makati rally in 2005. And Madame Marcos has come to enjoy celebrity status among younger Filipinos who don't remember martial law, and her son is poised to enter the halls of the very institution his father had once padlocked with such relish: the Senate.

We wouldn't be surprised if, indeed, the ink is already drying on an actual compromise settlement, which would leave the next administration with nothing left to do but send the records of the PCGG to the National Archives.

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Here and there

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RISE OF THE SUN IS MAY 2, 2010, the start of the month. There is enough in the main sections to be read and be read, but the supplementary pages offer even more for the enjoyment of the ladies, and also the gentlemen ("Even at 46, she still can"). The comics are available to anyone who wants to laugh; the business updates, for everyone who wants to be smarter.

At for the most. The Commission on Elections is there to assure everybody the elections will be clean, but everybody disbelieves it. The suspension have been released by order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to take care of her confidantes in Mindanao. It will be recalled that it was the suspension scenario that all the opposition candidates got a rare year and Fernando for Jr. (2004) opponent, learned politics the hard way.

Elsewhere in the land, things have not changed a bit. Votes are being bought by the millions. Private armies rule the land unmolested by soldiers and policemen. The all-powerful are thrilled more to be forgotten later, when they will be repressed as before. The wealthy retains their positions as owls birds of their respective backwater in mockery of the laws of the land. The presidential candidates have become tenants of the electorate, but only prior to the voting. It will be different when the polls are over.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will end her term as President of the Philippines on June 28, 2010, but hopes to retain her powers as prime minister under an amended Constitution. This leader like an impossible dream, but not with a membership in the House of Representatives ready to support her. It used to be that the votes in this august would be our own House of Representatives to be influenced by money in the choice of its leader. In that it was similar to the parliaments of other countries, which are not likely to be swayed by the 38 pieces of silver that led to the crucifixion of the Lord. But not anymore, not in our current House of Islands.

Now that the election is nigh, let us deliberate... Is the cesspool that is Philippine politics, will we find among the aspirants for the throne anyone willing to choose it by rejecting a Judas purse? Are there any such candidates? Come to think of it, are there any such representatives? There are among them servants of lawful government offices who have already polluted themselves in their own district. Have they enough decency not to contaminate the larger chamber with their own unsavoriness? Are there any such characters here?

Consider Nancy Pelosi, the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America. Speaker Pelosi became head of the House of Representatives by virtue of her own accomplishments as a member of the Democratic Party whose the distinguished herself by her honesty, among many other virtues. She did not have to cheapen herself by buying the position of Speaker of the House. But she happen elsewhere because she deserved it.

Who among the incoming members of the House of Representatives can be like the Honorable Nancy Pelosi of the American Congress?

But perhaps we are shooting too high; let us address the basics first. Who among the new members of the House of Representatives can remember the colors of the Philippine flag? Do they even know how to hang it properly? Can they recite the lyrics of "Bayan Ko" that was the anthem of our liberation from the hazards of martial law? Was Ninoy Aquino only a passing fancy? Did he die only to make GMA a minister for Ferdinand Marcos? Is she a worse despot than her dead, unburied model?

There seems to be no end to the sufferings of the Filipino people. We endured more than 15 years of totalitarian enslavement, and now we are facing a new imprisonment of the mind and heart. With the cooperation of the House of Representatives, we may soon be subjected to a new form of tyranny, and without conformity to the present Constitution.

There has been no public declaration of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and no imposition of martial law upon the land, but these strictures are there, and without the required notice to Congress. Martial law is already upon us, and Congress knows, but has never called us. What has happened to safeguard the freedom of the people under Art. VII, Sec. 18 of the Constitution?

With a new president to assume the powers of the retiring President Joseba has hopes of retaining her old judicial privilege from one for her shortcomings under the new president. Her previous decisions under an amended Constitution, it is up to the delegates ratifying the change to prevent this extraordinary amendment from applying to President Arroyo.

And now that we have dispensed with the difficult, let us turn to something more agreeable. Because we have it, that we regard with affection and memory. This is the date Sally and I were married, when I was 27 and Sally was all of 26. We are grateful for all the blessings God has granted us and thank all our friends for their congratulations and best wishes.

Lord, heal our land

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HOLDUPMAN who poked a gun at his victim and said: "Choose. Give me your wallet or I'll blow your head off!"

The victim responded: "Whatever, both of them are empty anyway!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 13, 31-33) Jesus gives us a new commandment—to love one another as He has loved us. We see this only Christian country in the Far East. Have we carried out, are we carrying out Christ's commandment of love every day as a people? Do we prepare ourselves for the coming May 10 elections, most of our people have empty wallets, and this is blatantly being capitalized upon and taken advantage of by unscrupulous politicians. On top of this, most of our people have empty heads regarding our first automated elections. The most basic requirement of love is respect. May the coming elections truly respect the will, hopes and dreams of our people.

* * *

Manipulating election results is the greatest form of disrespect and injustice to the people. Anyone who gets involved in such a crime is not worthy to become a leader or public servant. He do not need more thieves, liars, manipulators and opportunists in this country. Please deliver us, Lord, from selfish, greedy and scheming government leaders and politicians.

* * *

Have you seen some election posters displaying pictures of three, four, or even five members of a family running for elective positions? Shameful! And what is shared why there's no one points. Best answer is that they want to save on their election expenses. Double shame!

* * *

One way of knowing more about the presidential candidates is by knowing more about their families. But another area we want to know is the team they will be bringing into government with them if and when they win. I suggest that they name the Cabinet members they have in mind now before the elections. Right now, we can see what sort of persons will have a hand in running our government. Right among we will have two if the former president is open to teamwork, national unity and reconciliation.

* * *

Being a step further, the future presidency of our country should ask the people whom they want to be in his team. He must be the best from among us, and should go beyond partisan and patronage politics. It is time for us to try new ways of doing politics in our country.

* * *

There are a lot of unknowns and unforeseen events that can happen in the next days...before and after the elections. Let us all be vigilant and prayerful so that the plans and schemes of the evil and selfish will not prevail, and so that goodness, truth and justice will prevail.

* * *

"Only a little while longer" is a beautiful line we read in today's Gospel. It gives us a message of patience and hope. We hold on to this one last hand, and to hand work on the other hand. "Ora et labora" (Work and pray). This should be our prevailing mind-set as we come closer to the May 10 election date. Let us all do our best, and to God we leave the rest.

* * *

Typographically speaking, "words" and "wounds" have only two or three letters that make them different from each other. But what a world of difference in reality there is in order to our world and lives of wounded others. A lot of hating or wounding can happen with the words we use. One thing that comes very handy when building up relationships is the simple "hand aid." Every husband and wife should have one in the car or in the room to remind them to drop up or cool down when an argument or a quarrel starts brewing. Words, and more words only add fuel to the fire. Try it. This ordinary "hand aid" can become your "best-aid."

* * *

17-year-old Cindy Briones-Rivera wanted so much to have a child. Finally, after two miscarriages, she conceived and bore a wonderful son, Ivan. Ivan is now 2 years old. **Afraid of cancer leaving Ivan behind** 8 months old Ivan and husband Louie. Here was a woman who truly loved. During the funeral Mass, I **often caught myself looking** misty-eyed, looking at Ivan shopping so innocently and **peacefully in the arms of his papa. I couldn't** help but wonder, what will happen now to the child. And somehow, the assurance comes, yes, God will provide.

* * *

I can't help but wonder as to what will happen to our country after the elections. What will happen to our poor and innocent people whose only dream is to have better lives? Will love or selfishness prevail? Will the will of a few or the will of the people be followed? Thinking about this, I turn many-eyed, but still, the assurance comes, yes, God will provide. Deadlines will triumph.

* * *

It is the month of May, the month of Mama Mary. Let us not take her granted her most powerful intercession. Also this month, let us appreciate and not take for granted our labor-ers who do hard and hazard work every day. Again, it is they—not the selfish few who are involved in all sorts of cheating, stealing and lying, all in the name of public service—who make this country move on. *Mabuhay ang mga manggagawa! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!*

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, touch us in love again, and heal our land. Amen.

How to fight no-proc

WITH DUE RESPECT
Artemio V. Panganiban

NEVER SINCE THE SNAP ELECTIONS OF 1986 has there been an electoral exercise as critical as the forthcoming polls eight days from now. This is the opportunity we have been waiting for to forge an orderly transfer of power, and to restore our trust in the leadership of our nation and in our envisaged democratic institutions.

Pitfalls and glitches. This desideratum is however limited by many serious logistical pitfalls and automation glitches. Even the Commission on Elections admits that various problems could occur in as much as 20 percent of the total votes.

Indeed, Indonesia and India, where we must seriously be. This is the first ever attempt by any country in the world to metamorphose from full-manual to full automated count nationwide in just one jump. Other countries automated their election systems, but they did it in many phases over many years. Yes, their ballots were short, from one to 20 numbers long and had to be filled back in boxes. It is a non-entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

Yet, our Comelec had less than one year to prepare. Worse, it has neither been efficient nor careful in its preparations. If the poll body can pull this electoral exercise seamlessly, it would indeed be a miracle—and a miracle of biblical proportions to be among the first to clap in relief and jubilation.

Prime glitches to holdover. I am grieved. Comelec's house that there would be several billion of election holdovers. But, like many people, what I fear are the many logistical and technical glitches that may prevent the proclamation of the presidential and vice presidential winners when the lead of the leading candidate over the second best would be less than the number of uncounted ballots. This glitch could eventually lead to a failure of election (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, or worse, to a military power grab.

Let me lay out a few thoughts on how to fight, or at least, how to minimize the occurrence of a "no-proc" and a holdover presidency, or military rule. First, let the presidential votes win over

effortlessly. Should the votes garnered by the leading candidate over the next best be more than the "glitched" votes, a proclamation of the winner would be inevitable. For example, if the votes of candidates A over candidate B is 10 million while the total of the questioned ballots is only 8 million, the leading bet will be proclaimed.

Stated differently, this election is not just a personal contest among the candidates. It is also, if not more, not a battle for democracy. If the election fails, we would likely see many presidents and the old can may decide to step and hold over indefinitely. More important than the election of any particular candidate is the triumph of democracy over the dark forces of usurpation.

Extraordinary landslide. Hence, let us aim for the extraordinary—landslide victory. Better chances of winning, even if by not-that-very-lot-by-our-first choice, so that the margin of victory would be so overwhelming that glitches here and there would not matter. A huge landslide will also wipe out the effects of cheating and manipulation.

Second, let us do the same for the vice presidential race. If the election of a new president is decreed for a new 40 is overwhelmingly elected and proclaimed, then the latter can act as president while the presidential race is sorted out.

Third, let us also elect at least nine senators overwhelmingly. Upon proclamation, these senators would immediately take office and help the remaining 12 senators whose victories would matter only in 2013 form a quorum to elect a new Senate president who could become acting president, if no new president and vice president are proclaimed.

The immediate election of new senators is needed to tell the legal theory that under the present Constitution, the Senate is no longer a continuing legislative body because the 12 remaining senators do not constitute a quorum, unlike under the old Constitution, in which only eight of the 24 senators are elected every two years (leaving a continuing quorum with the remaining 16 senators).

Fourth, let reputable polling organizations like SWS and Pulse Asia conduct exit polls and release their results instantaneously even before the Comelec releases official election results after the Comelec will be delayed. The Supreme Court in 1992 (GMA Broadcasting vs. Comelec [Gen. Sn. 2000]) has categorically declared exit polls constitutional. Duly credible exit polls show no more reasonable lead for the winning president, any manipulation of the automated count would become extraordinarily difficult.

Fifth, let the election watchdogs, whether accredited or not by Comelec, conduct independent counts, and guard the polls to prevent cheating. Intervention may speed up the results but will not stop "guns, goons and gold."

Sixth, let us be wary of massive disenfranchisement. Voters should be very patient while waiting their turns to vote. Expect long queues at the precincts. Under the old manual system, there were only a maximum of 200 voters per precinct. Now, as many as 1,000 electors in the clustered precincts would be waiting to feed their ballots to the PCOS machines. Many machines will malfunction; let us wait for their replacements.

Let not the summer heat and the exasperating foibles of automation flabbergast us. Let us wait for our turn, no matter how long and how exhausting. This is our one-for-the-democracy and for our long-awaited opportunity to change our leaders peacefully.

* * *

Comments are welcome at thelaw@panganiban.com

People call me Dick.

THERE ARE MANY AND VARIED MEANINGS WHY I RETAINED Gordon as not another one in the presidential race. It is because the public is made up of fools who idolize candidates, by virtue of a true T-shirt, it is because of survey companies that are "shaping the people's minds" by publishing false ratings to a conditioned public. It is because the media are biased. It is because the people need to enable to understand he is better than those

METHOD TO MADNESS
Patricia Evangelista

Aquino, or that Villar. It's because of the oligarchies and monopolies and the sad state of the Philippine democracy.

That Gordon is not leading the charge to the Palace cannot possibly be because of Gordon himself. In the world's second oldest democracy, the Republic's longest and the city is papered with his posters, and crowds of ballot-clutching people singing rowers reach one so much his hand.

"Some me another candidate that has become Con-Con (Constitutional Convention) delegate at a very young age, who's a lawyer that became a mayor, that became chairman of Subic Bay, that improved our economy dramatically and made our free port of Mandaue pensioners have, that became secretary of tourism against a sea of opposition, then became senator of the Republic, did all those feats, and at the same time, spent 43 years fighting disasters."

That the senator has an impressive resume has never been in doubt. A list that includes class presidency, he reminds Raven Dorby on ANC. Perhaps he forgets that leadership is not just a function of achievements. It is also one of chance too.

This is Richard Gordon, presidential candidate, who spent his freshly radio interview insulting the Convergence of Speech, insinuating all manner of foul deeds. This is Gordon, straight shooter, offended at a caller's rotten question asking him if he thought the Comelec computers were really corrupt. This is Gordon, presidential candidate, bristling at his interviewer for calling him a coward for answering the question with an angry question. And so the best man for the job ripped into Raven Bomalaly, ONA editor, freckled member and Five Point publisher. "We're just the son of Ber3 Romulo," said the cool-headed little man, forgetting the line sentence. "You're nobody."

It may not be the most admirable act to call a presidential candidate "chickenshit," even if it's true. Then again, the MSU members voting before Valedictorian Ethan may not be so careful with their language on the prayer-requiring table, and I admire them for that. Even the most polished of Philippine newscasting dichotomy: I believe hearing his effigy will result in anything less than a bloody revolution outside Malacañang. It is odd for me to write this, as temperamental nerves should be the last people to judge temperaments, but nominees are inspiring for the leadership of over 90 million FU spirits.

"I'm frank," he says in an interview, after he finished a tangent on the idiocy of everyone but Gordon. "I don't give a damn what anyone thinks."

There is a difference between being frank and being a downright jackass, a difference that seems to have been blurring the last few days. It's The Straight Talk Express, and we are in reaching mammoth proportions, everyone and their mother accused of suddenly either being a whore or a moron. There is no concept of opinion or democracy, only right and wrong, color-coded by ballot hand. Gordon is an unsilent-as-hired oligarchy—a presidential candidate who chastises national leaders who don't support his candidacy, brands reporters, and goes ballistic at the suggestion Dick Gordon is not the most popular boy in class. "You people," a hear he refers to everyone on his team, "you people are the problem." For this man, a ballot that does not circle Dick Gordon is a result of some conspiracy against him or a failure in intelligence. It is odd for a man so contemptuous of people to claim he is a man who represents them.

He has read survey companies for brainwashing the public, says the president of this country is that people do not think. He is contemptuous of the running mate who has had nothing but praise for him, and him about Bernard Fernandez, and the man who has been his friend for 30 years, and who he decided on Fernando. "I did not choose him, he was the one who came to me." And then he will laugh at his own nerve.

Not that this isn't true, Fernando admits it when asked why he chose Gordon. "He was the only one left."

Gordon and his running-chicago-about Fernando. "In spite of his image, he's very frankness."

He says he admires the man's forthright and straightforward manner. He says he admires what Fernando has done for Marikina. Most of all, Gordon admires Fernando's admiration for Dick Gordon.

"You know, I've heard him say, I learned this from Dick Gordon." He would say that on TV and radio. That impressed me."

After I am president, after that opponent, Senator can be president. Then we'll have to look for somebody else who will continue."

I never met Gordon before the election season. Whether this is rube he really is, or whether the naming and teasing is a reaction to my age and perceived gender, my impression to me since he came nothing for, like or not what I want from my president. Outsiders are not exempt from hostility, and those who think they are end up frustrated and detained. It is a matter of what would have made a good holiday package a long time ago Gordon knew how to inspire. That Gordon now spends a good part of his time insulting his own campaign partners, blaming the survey companies and denouncing his interviewers explains much about the personality of this man.

"I know I could have won easily," he says about running for senator. "I have a pretty good track record. I'm pretty good at what I do. I would be turning my vest back on the country if I did not run for president."

There are many and varied reasons why I will not vote for Richard Gordon, and it is not because Neynery Aquino's partners were allied 20 years ago with the TU student I write for today, or because Gilbert Teodoro's people gave me a free T-shirt. Neither is it because the surveys have taken my name, or because religious organizations and the sad state of Philippine democracy, or because of my ties to any particular candidate. I would like to put it on the record: I will not vote for Richard Gordon because he is Richard Gordon.

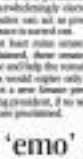
THEY SAID

Long live Gloria

"I only pray to God that (Mt Arroyo) will continue living so that she can answer for her crimes."
—Edith Burgos, mother of missing activist Jonas Burgos

All of us were 'emo' once

AT LARGE
Nina Jimenez-Garcia



ANYONE WHO SAYS HE OR SHE WASN'T at one time depressed, confused or questioning, especially during the teen years, is either lying or delusional. If I could have a magic wand to cast for a moment anyhow, then all those "emo" teens out there would have to be locked up.

Everyone goes through a "blue" period, known or fleeting or lasting in impact, but what's important to this: after going through the stage, the person emerges whole. What we don't need is to have normal or emotional problems stigmatized, to the point of saying that a single episode or considerations disqualifies one from holding public office.

All this is not to say that indeed Sen. Manny Aquino should not have undergone the depth of investigating. There no way of knowing. Two documents purportedly containing the results of a "study" done on him while he was a college student have been proven fake, debunked by the very persons supposedly involved in the study. Their method of backing off from their accusations, after it was proven there were based on spurious documents, his answers instead insist that he undergo a fit area test along with all other candidates. There hope it helps boggle the mind.

All I can say is that I know his father's devotion upon the declaration of martial law and the motivation and harassment his family faced afterwards. Anyone had many reasons to fall into a depression. Who wouldn't? And if he remained dreary and full of sadness after his father's death and detention, I think even I would have questioned his mental and emotional stability. That he, his mother and sisters went from grief to anger to overcoming under the glare of public attention is indeed a testament to their durability of spirit.

* * *

BUT maybe that's just me. A more reliable source, Dr. Imelda "Imy" Villar, president of the Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association and former president of the WOMB Foundation, writes to, in the post-It, "Take up the cudgels for psychological intelligence."

It is true—and she's not saying it's true—that Aquino sought counseling in adolescence. Dr. Villar says there's nothing wrong with it.

Losing environment and surrounding, alongside the person's solution, creates magical effects. If the psychological interventions can motivate and help persons do positive things, so be it.

"Attacking Senator Aquino for an alleged psychological consultation could construct the belief that psychologists and psychiatrists are only for those are mentally ill," notes Villar. "This can create an attitude that is not helpful in removing those who can benefit from it. This is not true to the field of psychology when this is not but to human beings."

* * *

DAVAO City was recently recognized as one of the best-performing local government units in the Philippines, receiving the top Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG) and the Seal of Hunger Mitigation Program (SHMP).

Despite its emerging status as an urban center, Tagaig officials still recognized the need for food production, implementing programs that addressed the problem of backyard animal raising, seed distribution and vegetable gardening. To supplement these efforts, 63 Timbulan Table (Dar/Haves) markets and Barangay Food Terminals were set up.

Livelihood projects and employment assistance helped struggling families. In addition, the GCE-provided stipends for 618 students at the Tagaig Science High School and employment for 1,500 out-of-school youth.

"Pahinga sa Hardware" sessions in 14 barangays and breastfeeding counseling in 19 barangays provided mothers with information on good nutrition, particularly the adoption of exclusive breastfeeding as an anti-hunger and anti-poverty strategy.

To help couples plan their families, immunization campaigns and free family planning services were provided, augmenting the limited supply provided by Population, and benefiting 1,823 couples.

In all, these programs have gone a long way toward improving the overall nutritional status of children. Even the 2009 typhoon Ondoy, despite the month-to-urbanization, had self-sufficiency is still a viable goal for the hardy folks of Tagaig.

The great escapism

WORLD VIEW
Naomi Wolf

NEW YORK—BARACK OBAMA, HOWEVER mixed his accomplishments to date as US president, has sought to rebrand America and reshape its former aspirations asset. Its ability to embody universally admired values. As popular culture is usually the way those values are transmitted, it is worth considering what it is about American movies, music and popular literature that makes them so compelling to many other parts of the world.

After all, much of what America once managed lived in Hollywood movies and other pop-culture exports is now being systematically locally. Bollywood competes with California in terms of glamorous stars and big production numbers; Japan and South Korea mine their own pop singers and fashion trends.

But consider "Titanicgate," the American TV drama about a ship that is rising under the sea by the pause of doubt. In a recent article in The New Yorker about two notably young chefs who have an one across the country to enact the great adventure of running their own fancy restaurant, called instead. Or "Instagrex," the 1996 world-wide hit movie about a newspaper-writing guy in Dublin named and his band of misfit dude friends drug him in Las Vegas to mend his broken heart.

One of America's last competitive cultural exports, it seems, is the post-adolescent male escape fantasy.

Ever since Huck Finn took his friends down the Mississippi River on a raft, American men have created and consumed fantasies of setting out with their male friends for panic unknown, or of traveling in an all-male group to busy adventures closer to home. In the 1950s, Jack Kerouac took his buddies on a meandering across the country in "On the Road." A decade later, Ken Kesey took his buddies, the Merry Pranksters, across the country in the other direction in their painted bus (granted, with female hangers-on).

This fantasy, derived, no doubt, from America's history—from westward expansion and Manifest Destiny, from the Gold Rush and a settlement policy that rationed staking a claim in the wilderness and subduing it—is powerfully appealing to many in general, and to many women as well. Indeed, American women have recently begun to film and report their own versions of this fantasy—starting with the groundbreaking 1991 film "Thelma and Louise" and continuing to a growing trend of girl group-road-trip-and-escape pop fantasies.

Other countries' lack of male escape fantasies in their popular culture may be no less historically rooted, less transient, more traditional societies will not severely welcome homegrown films and pop songs about boys going out taking off and finding themselves.

But, judging by the opposite drama worldwide for this narrative, it seems clear that identification with such adventurers is almost universal. It seems to speak to a deep longing in men—and in the women who also enjoy these films and TV shows—for a time in men's life when one could dash toward freedom, adventure and self-reinvention, unencumbered by social ties and family obligations.

At its best, this genre is part of America's gift to the rest of the world. At its worst, it is part of America's curse. That relief of careening, hedonistic, unencumbered largesse is part of what makes the archetypal American male presence alarming when he is equipped with a global cudgel. To the rest of the world, these same qualities are part of his charm only so long as he stays safely up on the screen.

Project Syndicate

* * *

Naomi Wolf is a political activist and social critic whose most recent book is "Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries."

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TALK of the TOWN

Elections 2010

Phone and feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juana V. Sarmiento Jr.

How they'll generate jobs

FILIPINOS CONTINUE TO LEAVE FOR JOBS OVERSEAS. THERE ARE SIMPLY not enough jobs available in the country. While remittances help keep the economy afloat, the social costs of a parent or spouse working abroad are huge. A bright spot is the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, which has absorbed tens of thousands of college graduates. But the BPO sector benefits mostly the middle class. It is closed to the poor who have less education. A big number of Filipinos are underemployed or underemployed or have simply given up hope of finding a job. How the next administration will address the unemployment problem can be gleaned from the answers of the presidential candidates to the following questions:

- How will you generate jobs? What policies and programs will you pursue to create jobs?
- What kind of jobs will be generated under your administration? What sectors, industries?
- Will you encourage the export of labor?

Benigno Aquino III

Liberal Party

LOOKING FOR WORK Hundreds of jobseekers gather at the Trivoma mall activity corner at the opening of a career expo.

JC de los Reyes

Ang Kapatiran

Joseph Estrada

Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino

Maria Ana Consuelo Madrigal

Independent

Nicanor Perlas

Independent

Richard Gordon

Bagumbayan

Gilberta Teodoro Jr.

Lakas-Kampi-CMD

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Associate in Computer Technology

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BS Electronics Engineering
BS Industrial Engineering
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Across the NATION

NFA buying 100,000 bags of local rice

CABANATUAN CITY—THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority in Nueva Ecija has increased its palay buying target to accommodate requests of farmers and cooperatives to buy their harvest amid the low buying price offered by traders, particularly for their hybrid rice.

Edilfeo Alejandro, NFA provincial manager, said their office was allowed to buy additional 30,000 to 100,000 bags of palay.

"We can still buy beyond that number if there are still [farmers] wanting to," he said.

Aside from six buying stations spread out in the province, the NFA has sent two mobile teams, accompanied by palay classifiers and cashiers, to towns and cities where buying prices offered by private traders are low or ACPC's 10-peso-for-clean-and-dry palay.

Farmers who do not have "pandesalan" issued by the NFA are allowed to sell a maximum of 50 cavans but they have to present documents on their backgrounds from their barangay captains or town agriculturists.

"We have an unusual situation now. Traders should be offering high prices in order to have more palay stock that they will mill, but they are not," Alejandro said.

He said it stated to be that the buying price of palay at this time was more than the government buying price of P17 a kg.

"This is regrettable. We pity the farmers who are forced to sell their harvest at low price in order to have instant cash," he said.

Alejandro said most palay traders are reckless in buying hybrid rice as it has short and sturdy grains, resulting in high volume of broken grains when milled.

"They prefer to buy inbred (traditional) palay varieties whose grains are long and slender," he said.

Alejandro said the NFA is buying hybrid rice to help farmers.

Jocelin Ramos, provincial agriculturist, said Nueva Ecija's total land area planted to rice this season was 147,006 hectares. Of this, 37,000 has were devoted to hybrid rice.

Between 160 and 220 cavans of hybrid rice can be harvested from a hectare while at least 120 cavans of inbred rice can be harvested in a hectare.

Edgardo Alfonso, president of the San Jose Rice Millers Association, said they were offering lower buying prices because cheap imported rice is flooding the local market.

"There is a low demand for our milled rice in our usual markets in Metro Manila. They said there was low demand the local rice because of the [availability of] imported rice," he said.

In Tarlac City, the NFA in Eastern Tarlac reported failing to meet its palay procurement target last year.

Cristilyn Mangarung, NFA assistant regional director, said the agency only bought 11,716 bags of palay, which are less than 10 percent of the 125,000 bags set for 2009.

Mangarung said rice farmers preferred to sell their harvest to traders and millers as they would not have to spend for transportation.

The NFA in Eastern Visayas buys palay at P17 to P17.30 a kg while traders offer P16.50 to P17.50 a kg, depending on the quality, he said.

"We have to consider the additional cost on the part of private traders who go to [their] remote villages," Mangarung said.

But he said the NFA's failure to meet its procurement target was not a cause for worry because its primary objective was to help stabilize the market and not to compete with traders and millers. Analiza Bogac, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Joy Cabiles, Inquirer Visayas

C. Luzon workers assail May 3 holiday

ANGELES CITY—LEADERS of labor groups in Central Luzon said President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to declare May 3 a holiday to commemorate Labor Day was a "distraction of the history of struggle of the working class."

Elmi Toya, spokesperson of the Metalworks pact in Kilusyon ng Bayan (Unity-bayan) in Central Luzon, said May 1 is significant because it symbolizes the efforts of labor movements around the world to earn respect for workers and to demand recognition for their rights.

"[But because] May 1 falls on a weekday unlike Labor Day (anglelabor), in fact, Labor Day on a Saturday gives more and opportunity for workers to assemble, launch protests or organize forums," Toya said in a statement.

"[This] reflects how poorly the Arroyo administration regards workers," she said.

She said the problems of workers—low wages, issues, abuse and terminations—have persisted under Mr. Arroyo's nine-year administration.

On Saturday, more than 200 workers marched along a 5-km route from the Bayanihan Park in the Clark Freeport to Plaza Miranda in Angeles City, where they staged a program.

They displayed a large replica of a campaign ballot, which they called "Balota ng Kinabukasan (Ballot for the Future)," instead of names of political candidates, written on the sample ballot were issues that they said the country's next president and set of leaders should address.

Among these issues were job generation, sufficient living wage, work security and respect for the rights of workers.

Josephine Aguilar, a garments factory worker, said she earns P5,000 a month while her husband, Mario, receives P4,500 as a high school teacher in a private school.

"We have seven children and all of them are in school. So, it is not enough. I don't know how we will survive if our contracts end," she said.

Aguilar said she joined the rally hoping that the government would act to improve the plight of workers like her. Charlene Cayabyab, Inquirer Central Luzon

MEMBERS of Kilusang Mayo Uno put finishing touches on an effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo that would be burned during Labor Day rallies. (ANGELANGLE)

Rebels raid mining firm, seize guns, security exec

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—COMMUNIST guerrillas raided Friday night the compound of the Marinduque Mining Co. in Barangay San Jose, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental, disarmed its six security guards and two policemen, and took away 17 firearms.

At least 12 rebels took advantage of a power interruption and sneaked down on the MMC compound, the management of which had been taken over by the G. Holdings Inc., in about 9:45 p.m., said Lt. Col. Rhando Raphon, 61st Infantry Battalion commander.

Raphon said the rebels immediately disarmed the guards. The NPA unit operating in Negros Occidental, in a text message to reporters in Bacolod, claimed responsibility for the raid on the MMC compound.

Senior Supt. Ricardo de la Paz, operations chief of the Police Regional Office, said two policemen assigned at a police sub-station in Barangay San Jose, Sipalay City while responding to reports that rebels have attacked the MMC compound, were also surprised by rebels and disarmed of their M-16 and M-14 assault rifles.

Disarmed were a PO2 Patrogenio and a PO2 Camposolo, both members of the Sipalay City police, said De la Paz.

CBCP Monitor, SOCIAL CONCERNS

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MATRIX OF PRESIDENTIABLES ON KEY ISSUES

In the previous issues of the CBCP Monitor, it presented the positions of Presidentiables on key issues according to their responses in the letters sent to them, interviews and relative sources emanating from them, such as those coming from their spokespersons. The CBCP Monitor printed them "as is" despite observable differences from their other statements. It aptly titled "What thePresidentiables Say." ***This time it is presenting its research. The CBCP Monitor has culled them from their media interviews, their interventions in the legislature for the members of the Congress, and from observers who collaborated in its study, and viewed them from the perspective of the Pastoral Statements of the CBCP.*** *- Eds)*

LEGEND									
✓ = NUMI									
X = DUMARY									
— = POSITION NOT AVAILABLE									
REJECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
END DEATH PENALTY	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
GUN BAN IN PUBLIC PLACES EXCEPT FOR LAW ENFORCERS IN UNIFORM OR ON DUTY	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
END POLITICAL DYNASTIES	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X
FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
END PORK BARREL	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
IMPOSSIBLE FREE FARMER AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
REFINE MODEL SPECIFIC LIMITS FOR FOREST LANDS AND NATIONAL PARKS AND IMPLEMENT MASSIVE REFORESTATION	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RECALL THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X
REVIEW OF MINING ACT OF 1995	X	✓	—	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
REMOVAL OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL SANCTIONS	X	✓	X	✓	X	—	X	X	X
REINTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER AS ENERGY SOURCE	—	X	—	—	—	X	—	X	—

Pray and discern, vote the right people to office. -- Laiko ng Pilipinas

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INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jon Bandayrel
Aurea Cinf Mica R. Alcantara

Cassava farming fortifies clan rule

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

ON MAY 10, THE Cerilles family of the predominantly agricultural Zamboanga del Sur seeks to further entrench a four-decade political dynasty which derives strength from the growth of cassava throughout the province.

Outgoing Gov. Aurora Cerilles and her husband, Antonio, a two-term congressman of the second district, intend to swap posts to maintain their hold on power and skirt the three-term limit rule.

The couple faces no formidable opponent and the coming election would just be a reaffirmation of their hold on power and the results a barometer of how they are able to maintain it.

In the 2007 elections, they solidified their grip on power. Apart from securing reelection, they had their only child, Ann Millicent, elected as mayor of Dumalinao town's debuting a veteran politician. He now seeks re-election unopposed, along with three other mayoral candidates allied with the family.

Also in 2007, the Cerilleses clinched victory for their allies in 24 of 27 mayoral races. Of the 294 local elective seats, only about 20 went to the opposition.

After severing a 2004 political truce with Rep. Isidro Real Jr. of the first district, the Cerilleses engineered the victory of his opponent, businessman Victor Yu, whose success orchestration led to smooth sailing.

LIKE a throw-up-family portrait, a campaign poster of the Cerilles couple and their son announces to everyone in Zamboanga del Sur who's in power.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHOTO)

Beginnings

The dynasty started with Victorio Cerilles, a lawyer, who came to power in 1963 as vice governor, then governor in 1967. He gave up the governorship in 1969 when he won a congressional seat, but his term was cut short by martial law in 1972 when President Ferdinand Marcos closed the legislature.

Victorio remained in political office in 1977. His time, as a member of Bilateral Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, as appointed governor until 1984 when he became Batasang Pambansa assemblyman. When the parliament was dissolved after the 1986 Edsa Revolt, he retired from politics.

Although his family was identified with the Marcoses, Victorio's son, Antonio, won as congressman of the second district in 1987 and was reelected twice. He will rest next in 1998.

Aurora, a banker, is scion of a political couple. Her father, Genaro Eisma, was congressman in 1957, while her mother, Victoria, was vice governor from 1968 to 1971.

Controversial figure

Antonio, a stalwart of the Nacionalista People's Coalition, played a significant role in the Windsurfer campaign of Joseph Estrada during the 1998 presidential race, earning him the post of secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It is considered one of the most powerful offices in government as it oversees millions of hectares of public land throughout the country.

Antonio became a controversial public figure because of a "midnight issuance" of an Environmental Compliance Certificate covering his family's rubber processing plant that sits within a 2,000-hectare rubber plantation in Lakewood town that it also owns.

After Estrada was deposed, Aurora ran for governor while Antonio sought re-regain his old congressional post in 2001. Aurora won, but her husband lost to Filabeneal Sun Jimin.

Cost in cassava

Following the defeat, the Cerilles couple built their political strength in 2001 by popularizing cassava farming. As governor, Aurora is made cassava farming a major strategy of the provincial government's poverty alleviation program.

The program was anchored on the contention demand for cassava chips as raw material for producing alcohol and feedstock of the diversifying food giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC), the Republic Institute of Union Ethanol's "Dashing" Cojuangco, who is also Antonio's political boss.

The provincial government provided field technicians to teach farmers the rudiments of cassava cultivation and assisted in establishing the Malabang Planters Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the first district and the Bayanan Planters Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the second district to take care of production financing.

There also provide cassava planters with tools to machetes at far-to-gate levels.

Aurora reserved now a supply agreement with SMC. A post to the provincial government website and that among others, the agreement bound SMC to buy cassava chips with a floor price of P1.50 per kg.

Between 2000 and 2006, the number of planter-cooperators, especially in the second district, became the principal gauge of the Cerilles political strength. This compared directly in terms of number of cooperators with the assumed production prospects of San Juan.

That time, the extent of production and sale of cassava chips and seaweeds was synonymous with the potential votes for either Antonio or San Juan.

By 2006, the cassava program's initial three-year gains brought Antonio back to his congressional seat, and had Aurora retain the governorship. It was the first time that the couple ran together and managed to win seats in the same election.

Dividends of loyalty

The Cerilles couple stood by President Macapagal-Arroyo despite her record low voter ratings. They used this relationship as leverage to funnel in more funds for infrastructure projects, especially roads and bridges, on top of those from bilateral and multilateral development aid agencies.

Improved roads brought down the cost of transport of people by 20 percent and of cargo by 25 percent between 2000 and 2009, official figures showed.

The couple also got the nod to establish cassava complexes in 22 towns of the once-created Josefina H. Cerilles Memorial State College—its creation was sponsored by Antonio in a bill in 1995. Hence, they were able to cultivate political capital out of ensuring closer physical service by the rural folk in a facility for higher education.

With co-financing from congressional pork barrel, Aurora embarked on loan-by-outsourcing health insurance coverage for indigents, reaching 56 percent in 2000 from just 26 percent in 2000. This partly explains the jump in per-capita social services expenditure from P161 in 2001 to P337 in 2008.

Based on official figures, poverty incidence in the province of over 920,000 people went down from 54.4 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2009.

Prospects ahead

From 2007 to 2009, Zamboanga del Sur produced 15,651 metric tons of cassava on an annual average of some 4,500 MT. As of 2009, cassava was planted to about to 27,000 hectares of land by some 7,6,800 farmers.

Several years back, Antonio led a mission in Thailand to learn new techniques in planting cassava that ensured higher yield. The provincial government now promotes a new method that increases yield from 5-7 kg to 10-15 kg per tuber.

Thinking, Mayor Hacienda Paradigm, a sustainable agriculture advocate, now developed a method of intercropping organically grown cassava and corn, which increases its adaptability with farmers.

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Manila Water

Securing the Future Today

Don't wish Dick good luck but God bless or 'good skill'

From page A1

expression of our supporters."

He has had a change of mind since, so that movements will no longer be seeing his billboards on the South Luzon Expressway and Edsa.

But Gordon could not resist pointing out that his rival—Sen. Benigno Aquino III, Gilbert Teodoro and Sen. Manuel Villar—have put up billboards and banners much larger than his and Fernández's.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

***

Screaming colors

Jeralka Lucias Ejercito Estrada wasn't her bosom—or should it be her buttocks?—it stood out.

The lifestyle columnist and daughter of deposed President Joseph Estrada and former senator Luisa Ejercito got the gist of an acrylic fashion-searching member of her father's media team during a recent campaign stint in Cagayan de Oro City.

This employee, who certainly spends her time at the beach, let out a vivacious "sweet" along the lines of, "I just saw the most comfy."

The committee fringe staffer, who otherwise writes on matters post-mercantile, was apparently put out by Jeralka's gawgs and stage demeanor.

Besides wearing a vest in her father's orange campaign colors, Jeralka had on a bright blue top, leggings in neon orange and a pair of blue shoes.

Even without the screaming color combination, Jeralka could hardly be missed because throughout the rally she was mauled onstage fawning for father and half brother, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

"No I wonder ... after 20 minutes of fawning Jinggoy's back, didn't she feel fatigued or bored? Didn't realize she could feel pleasure to wielding a fan," the exasperated beaver-counted in Filipino. Christian Esguerra

***

Noynoy's 20-minute date

A 20-minute date was all that Liberal Party presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III could spare from his hectic campaign schedule to celebrate his girlfriend's birthday.

Before flying to Tacloban City last Monday, Aquino managed to spend some time with Shalani with his sweetheart, Valenzuela Councilor Shalani Soledad, whose 30th birthday fell on Tuesday.

"It was about 20 minutes. I asked if we could move for a short period and then maybe again when I return," said Aquino.

Aquino, 50, did not reveal what present he gave Soledad, except to say that it was something "for women."

"I think you should ask her about it. Maybe she did not like it," he said in jest.

According to Aquino, Soledad was received more by press spectators on their wedding plans, like having journalist Boy Abunda as their ring bearer.

"She was somewhat speechless when I asked if she had read the reports. It was like she opened her mouth but nothing came out," he said.

And she was also in somewhat of a hurry to get somewhere, he said.

"She later went to the exact message saying we should have dinner when I come back. We will have a discussion [on those reports]," he said. Philip C. Tubeza

***

Making Villar happy

Malolos City—The campaign of Sen. Manuel Villar staged a rock concert here on Thursday night called "Bandaruspa," said that is where the candidate was after day-long campaigns, same as with the unfavorable results of the latest Pulse Asia candidate preference survey.

The Nacionalista Party candidate looked tired, outdone without an all-out fire-lure as he sat at the back of the giant stage, waiting for his cue.

As the cheering crowd chanted his name and watch his campaign theme in the background, Villar seemed to regain his strength, quickly rising his arms and clutching a mic.

Rallying his supporters, Villar declared that the electoral battle was far from over.

"We can defeat poverty," he said, repeating his campaign platform to end poverty in the country.

"The fight ahead is general level," he later told reporters.

"We are strong on the ground. The machinery is in place," he said.

Popular television host Willie "Willing Willie" Revillame climbed up the stage, to the surprise of his crew who hurriedly brought him his orange campaign shirt and caged microphone.

"I can't help it. I just went to see you. Is Malolos happy?" said Revillame as the crowd cheered in unison.

"You know why I'm here? To make you happy. Let's make the man, who is always on the receiving end of attacks, happy," he said as he rallied against Villar's rivals who he said had been unfairly affected by the "black propaganda."

"If you hate me, I hope on May 10 you should vote for me. I have everything but been thrown at him. He is hurt because he's just human," he exhorted the crowd.

Thrice, he used the gaps to puff on his cuddy stroke with a monster Elitez.

Soledad and Estrada consumers less than a pack of cigarettes a day. Benette Strojas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

***

During the Pampanga campaign, Estrada said Sen. Francis Escudero has called him and "asked for forgiveness" for endorsing his running mate, Liberal Mayor Jejomar Binay, but not him.

Estrada said he told Escudero, who is supporting Liberal Party candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III, that there was nothing to apologize for.

"I asked him: why he was asking for forgiveness. I told him he doesn't have anything to ask for pardon for. It's your right to choose whom you want," he said.

Estrada said he had even mended his ties, first from Mayor Ate Ayuntamiento, after attacking the mother in the media.

"I don't be lied-headed. You should think twice about who you are going to say. It's all brought on by emotion," Estrada said.

He said Ejercito was hurt because he and Escudero were close friends. Estrada himself supported Escudero's senatorial run in 2007.

"They're about the same age. They were gung mates so I think he (Escudero) took hard. I asked godfather to Escudero at his wedding. That's why we are close. There's nothing to it," Estrada said. Norman Bordadora

***

Manlosa, Quezon—One of the vehicles joining Estrada's motorcade in Lucena is an orange Ford E-150 dressed up like a public utility jeep.

Above its windshield is a wire proclaiming "Jeep na Jeep," a play on the name of the volunteer organization that provided the grassroots campaign for Estrada's successful 1998 campaign as well as his present attempt in return to Malacañang.

The one in front not catch the kinchy accoutrements of the property, with three loose fig. artists on its hood, oversized antennas and artwork on the side panels. The paintings ostensibly show a smiling Estrada in his champion of the masses persona.

The calligue is also fitted with railings and bumpers like those found in passenger jeepneys.

As the jeep went around the narrow streets of this town, children jumped on board, hanging on to the railings and bumpers, the easy commuters do to a real jeepney. Norman Bordadora

"BIG BOY' IN SOLANO Liberal Party vice-presidential candidate Ruffy Biazon, author or coauthor of 44 laws and 90 bills in Congress, is welcomed by the people in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, during a recent LP campaign caravan to the province. Biazon, whose campaigners call him the Big Boy in Up-Standing Filipino, vowed to press the passage of laws benefiting the family.

MEGA THUMBS UP Show biz star Marian Cuneta gives the thumbs-up sign to former Sen. Ricardo "Tito" Sotto during the recent taping of a commercial wherein Sharon endorsed the candidacy of the Nacionalista People's Coalition senatorial candidates. Sharon, wife of Liberal Party's Senate slate's campaign manager Francis Pangilinan, is the niece of Sotto's wife, Helen Gamboa.

BRO. EDDIE'S HUMAN CHAIN Supporters and campaigners form a human chain along Roxas Boulevard in support of Bro. Eddie Villanueva, presidential candidate of Bangon Pilipinas. The human chain was extended to stretch 20 kilometers from Quiapo to the end of Roxas Boulevard.

It's father vs daughter for Mabalacat mayor

From page A1

this town's political history a daughter has dared face her father in the electoral arena.

The carry of Marjorie Morales-Jumbo in the mayoral race against her father, reelectionist Mayor Marino Morales, surprised many voters here.

"I have watched this age but it's only now that I have witnessed a father versus daughter bout. It's surprising," said Gondeva Capil, 71.

"The best part is no. Was there something wrong with Jumbo's [Morales] governance that his daughter had to run against him?" asked 20-year-old Jocelyn Wade.

Businessman Anthony Isa, who sought the mayoral position for three consecutive elections, said that this year, he chose to run for vice mayor to give way to his allies, including Jumbo, in facing Morales.

Needs improvement

Jumbo, 34, said she decided to run against her father because there were many things that needed to be improved in Mabalacat.

Morales, a Lakas-Kampi-CMD candidate, has served as mayor since 1995. He stayed in office when the Commission on Elections (Comelec) declared five terms of the 1998 synchronized election.

Dee did not contest office when the declaration came a few weeks before the 2007 elections.

Sad dad

Dee, who is running under the Liberal Party, is a guest candidate in Santos's Nacionalista Party slate.

"Mabalacat needs a change in leadership because many government services have yet to be given to the people. We have to give to the people what is due [them]," Jumbo said.

She vowed to finish infrastructure projects in the town, push education programs, provide the local police and fire departments' vehicles and equipment and establish cooperatives for the elderly.

Morales said he was undaunted by his daughter's move.

"It was not really her who wanted to run. It was her husband who wanted to [have me]," he said.

Morales said he last talked with his daughter before the deadline of the filing of certificates of candidacy on Dec. 1 last year. "I asked her if she will run and she [said] down a] confident... But that is something I cannot divulge."

'Father didn't listen'

John Sambo, husband of Morales' daughter, said his wife asked her father to relieve two employees whom she thought were contributing to the poor governance in his administration.

"But her father did not listen," said John Sambo, 39.

He denied that he convinced his wife to run for mayor. "I only supported her decision."

But whatever pushed Jumbo to run against her father, Morales said he was still hoping she would back out of the race.

'I will always love him'

Whatever rules, Morales and Jumbo said their love for each other would remain.

"Should I win, I would appreciate it if my father gave me [political] advice. After the elections, he's still my father. I will love him and I still always love him," Jumbo said.

Morales, on the other hand, said he would not give his daughter any position in government should he win. "But if she decides to [reconcile with] me, I will accept her with arms wide open."

ALL IN THE FAMILY Mabalacat, Pampanga Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales of Lakas-Kampi-CMD will be facing his own daughter, Marjorie Morales-Jumbo of the Nacionalista Party, in the town's mayoralty fight.

"[OVERSEAS FILIPINOS MUST] TAKE their rightful place in our democracy by participating in the May 10 polls. It took 36 years for Congress to recognize that. They must vote."
RAMON MITRA, April 2010

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Ginny Lirio

E-mail: global@inquirer.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Where public display of love is forbidden, they prevail

HAPPILY HITCHED Love knows no boundaries.

LOVE BOAT From Riyadh, Christian and Xenia Domingo sail to Dubai before their church wedding in the Philippines in 2009.

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THERE'S A TYPICAL FILIPINO LOVE STORY in the Middle East. Unlike most Filipino couples here in the Philippines, Xenia and Christian Domingo could not go on romantic dates in the mall and hold hands to show their affection for each other.

"Even married couples like us," according to Xenia, a 31-year-old physical therapist based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, "are not allowed to show the slightest bit of affection for each other in public places here."

When they first arrived in the conservative and predominantly Muslim country five years ago, Xenia and Christian discovered that there was actually a long list of no-nos for both men and women—a list they had to quickly adjust to.

"We learned the hard way about the Arab-Muslim community. That it is made up of two groups—the men and the women," she says.

Men and women are not allowed to cohabitate to avoid and prohibit premarital sex, weddings, and are forbidden to shake hands with or even smile at strangers.

"The law is strict with both genders, but more so for the women. It's basic Islamic culture shock, having been born and raised in the small island of Concepcion in Northern province.

"While men are not allowed to grow their hair long and wear gold jewelry, women are prohibited from driving cars and wearing clothes without the abaya (the customary black headdress) or cover and scarf to hide their hair."

The rigid rules were quite hard to adjust to, considering the freedom of expression Filipinos experience back home, she says in an interview with the Inquirer in February.

Xenia really meeting her 32-year-old husband, also a physical therapist at the same rehabilitation clinic in Riyadh where she is now working, as a college intern in October 2004.

They were introduced by a common friend at a Metro Manila rehabilitation center where Christian, who grew up in Pasay City, worked as a staff member. It was not long after that they became very good friends, frequently calling each other on the phone and going out on friendly dates whenever they could.

There was a typical Pinoy love story. Xenia shares with a smile. Christian wooed her with flowers, candies, cards, stuffed toys and heart-shaped pillows. After some time, she was falling in love with him.

"It was on our first 'welcome' date in Riyadh, after a memorable dinner at a seafood restaurant, when he first revealed his intentions through a paper bag filled with gifts—including a CD with my favorite song," she says.

Preparing for their future

Xenia had some misgivings about getting involved in a serious relationship, especially because she had promised her mother and younger sister that she would help them finish school. She was then working as a pharmacy assistant and a staff member in a physical therapy center.

"When Christian entered my life, he would help me with my dreams. I saw the kind and responsible person he was and decided to give love a try," she says.

From then on, Xenia and Christian planned their future together, eventually deciding to apply for work abroad to help their families and prepare for their own.

In June 2005, they left the Philippines for Jubail, Saudi Arabia.

"Of course, our situation then was very different from our situation now as a married couple," she says. "As single workers, our living quarters were different and we had to adjust to a culture that strictly dictated the separation of men and women."

Xenia experienced a jolt of culture shock when she first arrived in Saudi Arabia. "The immigration officer at the airport spoke to me in Arabic and, of course, I did not understand a word he said." She was taken aback when her friend, who spoke and understood Arabic very well, translated it for her.

"The officer actually asked me how much I can and can't be seen in public. I told him I'm fine with," she says, laughing at her own recollection of the English translation.

She also remembers how strict it was at her hostel visitation rules. Male visitors were not allowed to enter the building premises. The building administration started locking the gate from the outside when one of their companions was caught leaving her room at midnight.

"We were also required check," she says. "What if there was a fire and we could not get out because the gate was locked? Eventually, we unanimously enough courage to complain. Some problems and since they finally admitted that we were right."

Wedding in RP

After two years of working in Jubail, Xenia and Christian decided to return to the Philippines to get married in civil rites on July 9, 2007.

They went back to Saudi Arabia but were home again after a year for their church wedding on Nov. 8, 2008.

In September 2009, Christian again left the country for Saudi Arabia, but he left Xenia behind this time. "I knew I would follow him, but still, those were the most difficult months of my life," she recalls.

Until the day she left the Philippines for Riyadh in January 2010, Xenia kept herself busy by spending her time with family and friends.

The Domingos were now in a facility just beside the clinic they are both working in. Five other Filipinos, all nurses, stay in the compound.

"Our life now is a far cry from our single days in Jubail," she says. "We are fortunate to have been provided with a fully-furnished (but with no) two rooms, a kitchen and a toilet."

During their free time, they go out with their Filipino friends, dining or grocery shopping at the mall.

"We are happy when we are the Filipino staff working at the supermarket. You can see their faces light up when they see a Kababayan. They enthusiastically assist us especially when we are looking for Filipino products."

Adjusting to climate

As with most overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in foreign lands with equally foreign climates, Xenia and Christian have to adjust to the desert's extreme summers and winters.

"I especially hate sandstorms because I get asthma attacks," she shudders. "It is also humid. It is 40 out of the house because the sand either gets in your eyes or hurts your face."

Riyadh is more tolerable and sometimes even amusing. For them in the summer, "We actually hooking at the cloud that forms when we open our mouths," she says, recalling the excitement they felt the day when ice pellets fell from the sky.

On ordinary days, life is very simple for the Domingos: They go to the rehabilitation clinic every day at 9 a.m. and work until 12 noon, after a four-hour break, their duty resumes until 10 p.m.

Pastime

"Our pastime is spent in the mall or in front of the computer," Xenia says. Sometimes, she ignores the hindi nagsasawa (I never get tired) and goes to the mall to shop. Hindi nagsasawa (I never get tired) and goes to the mall to shop. Hindi nagsasawa (I never get tired) and goes to the mall to shop.

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HAPPY THAT TEARS ARE HERE
Cure Smith (foreground) and Roland Orzabal, iconic crusader and guitarist-chief songwriter, respectively, of the British group Tears for Fears, are in town for their first-ever concert tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets to the show have been sold out since February as Filipino fans look forward to reminding their passion for the band's emotionally-charged songs—considered one of the best exponents of 1980s-era British New Wave music. Promoters are reportedly considering extending the concert to one more night on May 15. RICHARD VELASCO

Comelec: Pacquiao can run

By Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE COMMISsion on Elections (Comelec) Second Division has dismissed the disqualification case filed against boxing champion Manny Pacquiao by his rival in the barangay congressional race.

In a decision dated April 29, the division chaired by Commissioner Nicolasa Perez, said Roy Chingkuan's claim that Pacquiao was a resident of this city and not Sarangani province had no basis.

Chingkuan had cited Pacquiao's residence and real properties in this city as proof he lived here.

In its decision, the Comelec admitted that the boxing icon's "transfer of his voter's registration from Lagao, General Santos City, to Kiamba, Sarangani, on Dec. 13, 2008, by itself is not sufficient to prove that he has abandoned his former residence."

But it said that Pacquiao's "various acts and statements even before his transfer of his voter's registration and thereafter would indubitably show that respondent has completely abandoned his former residence."

Pacquiao's camp said the boxer, who is making a second stab at politics after losing the Tenth Cotabato congressional race in 2007, was elated by the decision.

Chingkuan, scion of a powerful political and shipping family, filed the case against Pacquiao after the pugilist's camp had sought his (Chingkuan's) disqualification also on the grounds of nonresidency.

The Comelec dismissed the petition but the People's Champ Movement filed an appeal.

Early this week, the Comelec en banc ruled with finality and upheld its previous ruling that Chingkuan was a resident of Sarangani.

Government prosecutors in Sarangani, meanwhile, tasked Friday the charges filed against five supporters of Pacquiao who were linked to the supposed ambush of a town mayor last week.

AFP pooh-poohs warning

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines (AFP) yesterday belittled a warning by former Marine Capt. Nestor Fadriton that soldiers would take part in a "people power" revolt if the military allowed itself to be used again for cheating in the May 10 elections.

"Who is Fadriton? He is an obscurantist. He should first answer the charges against him," said Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos, AFP spokesperson.

Burgos said the fugitive recalcitrant did not have any followers within the military organization but had lost all credibility after he escaped at the height of the Peninsula Manila siege in Makati City three years ago, forcing colleagues like Navy officer-turned-senator Antonio Trillanes and former Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to face the music.

"The AFP will not glorify this senseless statement. I'm certain everybody from the AFP will listen to him," said Burgos, adding "the AFP is solid and we are all very professional." Marlon Ramos

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SEEING STARS

Digital planetarium to open soon in QC

By Miko Morales

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE DIGITAL MOBILE PLANetarium recently installed at the Diliman Preparatory School (DPS) in Quezon City—the first of its kind in the country—looks a bit plain and unimpressive.

But once the device commences the show is switched on, spectators are seemingly brought to outer space with the realism of the images of celestial bodies flashed on the screen, objects usually invisible to the naked eye or observed by the unaided.

With the planetarium, the school not only intends to popularize the study of heavenly bodies among its students, but also to harass the dissenters of Filipino astronomers by including them to the planetarium's computer program, said Nikki Coseteng, DPS president.

Coseteng, a former senator, gave Inquirer a tour of the planetarium last week, proudly displaying the newly acquired equipment she personally shopped around for in the United States.

Outer-space attractions

"Since I was a child, I was always amazed and curious about the attractions of outer space," she said.

"But in the schools I went to, astronomy was just a two or three-page lecture in science class dealing mostly with the subject of stars. That was about it."

Her fascination for astronomy was vividly evident during the demonstration, as she went on to name the constellations that the user or the device focused towards the dome, showing off an impressive number of tiny twinkling stars.

"Children who have an interest in this particular field of science are never given a chance to see anything like this," she said.

The device, which Coseteng said was shipped to the school last month, consists of a 4D projector with a fish-eye lens, a curved mirror that distributes light from the machine evenly to the dome, covering the area in a blanket of heavenly objects.

The high-resolution projector is hooked up to a computer designed solely to run the planetarium software.

Remote control sets, bigger than the ones that come with television sets, are used to operate the machine.

With a push of a button, viewers are transported to astronomical objects like Ceres, the nearest star in the solar system. Ceres is four light years away, claiming its brightness takes four years to reach the Earth.

Tiny speck

From Ceres, the Earth is just a tiny speck, along with particles labeled as the sun and other planets.

Astronomer Ramon Galvinsa, who was among the guides at the demonstration, explained that he was in the process of adding a Filipino flavor to the presentation, one of four components in the astronomy experience that the Native Americans of North America, among others.

What makes the digital planetarium different from the analog counterpart was that the conventional device used only had a contraption with holes where light passes through, said Galvinsa. The digital machine, on the other hand, simulates the real-time locations of celestial bodies.

SPACE Some astronomy consultants Rachelle Dorlo and Beem Gutierrez in front of Quezon City's latest attraction.

DILIMAN Preparatory School's Nikki Coseteng: Star-gazing can be a lot of fun.

Galvinsa said he has been in touch with software developers in the United States to get their permission to include objects in outer space discovered by Filipino astronomers, like Dr. Joselin Silva, a science teacher in the Visayas who has the available expression of having six asteroid named after her.

"Since the software is an open source, it was told that all I needed was to input the orbital elements of the asteroid," he said, referring to the coordinates of the path of the Rhea asteroid.

Galvinsa said he would also be adding constellation charts by ancient Filipinos, as researched by astronomer Dr. Dante Ambravaneo of the University of the Philippines.

Ancient astronomers

Two years ago, Inquirer published a two-part series on Ambravaneo's findings that pre-colonial Filipinos, like the Bajjaos and the Itawas of Tawi-Tawi, had recorded stars in the conduct of their lives, using their own versions of constellations.

Among the star groups seen by the ancients were the "bahak," or "lamik," a spear trap used by hunters to catch wild boars according to Ambravaneo.

Apart from star formations that are more popular in Western culture, the planetarium also features those from other cultures since the school is set to implement its use.

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Apart from star formations that are more popular in Western culture, the planetarium also features those from other

Embattled Rodriguez mayor bares death threats

By Julie M. Aurelio

SUPERVISOR MAYOR PEDRO Cuerpo of Rodriguez, Rizal province yesterday claimed receiving letters that contained threats to his life, in the last few days of his campaign for the gubernatorial post.

In a press conference yesterday in Quezon City, Cuerpo said he received the threats three days ago accusing him of having links with leftist insurgency groups.

"I just want the media to know that there are these kinds of harassment against me," he told reporters.

Cuerpo showed the media a copy of two letters mailed to him, the first one warning Cuerpo against allowing himself with allegedly leftist party list groups such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela.

The mayor, who has been suspended several times in the past, however denied any links with such groups, adding that the contents of both letters were all lies.

"I don't have links with communist heirs Lito Monz or Satur Ocampo because they are with the Nacionalista Party while I am with the Liberal Party where on Dennis Roldan," Cuerpo said.

Both letters were written in Filipino, the first one saying that Monz and Ocampo were forcefully affiliated with the Communist Party of the Philippines and that people should not vote for them.

Another letter came with a blank ribbon and a warning that harm would come to him if he continued to ally himself with such groups.

Cuerpo said he ignored the warnings at first but was now taking these seriously because the letters also included his family in the warning.

The mayor added that he has asked the Commission on Elections and the Philippine National Police force for security escorts, but his requests were turned down.

"I go around with only civilian volunteers, and no weapons. But this will not prevent me from making the rounds of my constituents in the last days of the campaign," Cuerpo said.

He added that even before filing his certificate of candidacy last year, he has received death threats through text messages warning him not to push through with his bid.

The gubernatorial candidate is up against incumbent governor Casimiro Ynares Jr.

"The ones behind this will be the ones who will forfeit if I will no longer run. I don't think the military or right-wing groups are involved," he said.

With Bianca Icel, contributor

Election 2010

Poster war bounds Parañaque mayoral bets

By Nitz Calleja

FIVE SUPPORTERS OF RE-electionist Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe were arrested Friday night for allegedly posting black propaganda materials against his opponent, actor and former Mayor Joey Marquez.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Valdez, city police chief, said Marquez's supporters spotted the five posting the materials around 11:30 p.m. at the Pond B Estate Subdivision.

The posters featured pictures of Marquez and his rumored girlfriends, and asked residents not to vote for the actor.

A police report identified the five as Anthony Pada, the printer Gaileany Agustin Smith, Arnold Gopel and Judy Sayao.

"As of now, there is no complainant coming from the camp of Joey Marquez. There is also no evidence to donate them," Valdez said, adding that the police are investigating the matter.

Bernabe admitted that the five suspects were his supporters, but said they were printing "legitimate campaign materials, not black propaganda posters."

"The incident was obviously a setup," he said through a text message, adding that his supporters were securing campaign shirts and carrying his posters when they were arrested. With Ranjhe Villaviar, contributor

An upgraded health care program for QC, vows Mathay

INDEPENDENT QUEZON CITY mayoral bet Mel Mathay Jr. vowed to upgrade the city's health care program, saying residents can look forward to more benefits when he returns to his former post.

While it is easy to discern PGH million to establish a health card system, ensuring that it can provide the maximal of benefits is an entirely different matter, he added.

"Giving residents a card will not address the city's health problems because the conditions here in Quezon City are different from other cities in Metro Manila," Mathay said, in obvious reference to proposals made by other candidates to implement a program similar to the popular "yellow card" scheme in Makati City.

"My opponents keep on saying that it's just a matter of realigning the budget and giving away those cards, but it is not as simple as that. We first need to create a health program designed specifically for Quezon City," Mathay said.

The mayoral bet stressed the need to improve the quality of the city's public hospitals as well as creating into a financially beneficial agreement with the private medical institutions.

Mathay said he will also initiate improvements on the Quezon City General Hospital and the Novaliches District Hospital, and establish more hospitals and medical facilities.

He also plans to increase the number of barangay health centers in the city.

MetroBriefs

Trader loses cash, valuables in parked car

A BUSINESSMAN had almost P2 million in cash and jewelry after thieves broke into his car while he was at a friend's house late Friday night in Quezon City, Michael Martinez told police that his belongings were in a Prada tote bag inside his car parked along Road Tatlan Street in Kamuning Laging Handa before the incident. Case investigator PO3 Ernesto Fabro Jr., of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said the right rear window of the victim's car, a Nissan Sentra (SKE 204), was broken. Martinez told police that he had a Technomarine watch worth P120,000; a Panerai watch valued at P160,000; P80,000 in cash; HK$ 10,000; $3,000, assorted jewelry amounting to P1 million, and other items such as a passport, post-dated checks, bank passbook and assorted credit cards.

Julie M. Aurelio

Skyway Stage 2 still ahead of schedule

THE SKYWAY Stage 2 project is still ahead of schedule at the end of the first quarter of 2010 despite delays it encountered in the acquisition of the required right-of-way (ROW) and relocation of some utilities, according to project developer Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corporation (CMMTC). As of March 31, 2010, the project was already 45.38% finished and is still ahead by 1.2% of the 44.18% official target accomplishment schedule even as some concerns over the required ROW and utilities relocation are being addressed. With these developments, CMMTC is confident that the completion of the entire Skyway Stage 2 will be achieved. Skyway Stage 2 is the 5.56-kilometer elevated toll road from Buendia-Ayala to Balintawak-Mindanao Avenue. When finished, the Skyway between Buendia and Buendia will be a breeze in less than 12 minutes after May 2011, according to CMMTC.

THE WONDERS of the outer limits and the coordination of the clutch of a console, one of the highlights on the learning facility. NOEL ALEJANDRINO

Digital planetarium ...

From page A11

tial bodies, based on established scientific research.

Made of synthetic material capable of withstanding the elements, the dome is seven meters in diameter, and can easily accommodate 120 students at a time.

A tube is fitted to the dome which is attached to a air compressor to inflate the contraption. The compressor also serves as a ventilation machine.

Courtney said she is thinking of introducing astronomy in the school curriculum, since it is related to physics and mathematics, subjects many students find difficult to understand.

"If you include astronomy in the curriculum at an early stage, you start introducing the principles of physics at a young age," she said. "Then, the students need not struggle with the concepts in high school."

Since the planetarium is easy to dismantle, schools, especially those in remote areas, can request the DPS to bring the planetarium to their area, at a minimal cost, Courtney said.

"Cost is relative. If it's going to mean a great difference in the attitude of our students towards learning, then, cost should not really be an issue," she said. "If you think quality education is expensive, try ignorance. You pay a bigger price for that."

DPS is opening its planetarium on May 4 to the public. For more information, contact the school administration office at telephone numbers 951-0721 or 951-0460.

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Bayer Philippines Inc. proudly announces the launch of Saridon Triple Action, the only headache brand in the market which features the unique combination of pain-relief, propyphenazone, and caffeine for fast and effective relief even against severe headaches.

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ADVT.

May Day: Thousands of Asians rally for jobs, pay

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—TENS of thousands of workers thronged the streets of Asian cities on Saturday in annual May Day marches, demanding job security and higher wages.

In Indonesia's capital, thousands of red- and blue-shirted workers marched peacefully on the presidential palace to mark the International workers' day. Some 15,000 police lined the streets of Jakarta, backed with water cannon and tear gas. Only a few minor scuffles between police and bus station canteens were at the rally.

"Workers unite! No more layoffs!" the crowd shouted.

Rally organizer Iqbal Ajie said the government had harmed the welfare of Indonesian by implementing policies—such as a free trade agreement with China—that cost jobs, decreased wages and encouraged corruption.

"This corrupt government has taken the side of the capitalists and businessmen, not us, the workers," Ajie said in a speech to the crowd.

The Indonesian workers' demands include social security guarantees, an end to outsourcing, the elimination of arbitrary layoffs and human rights for workers.

Police requested about 10,000 people to march in Jakarta, and police spokesperson Col. Sisy Aryo Asmi Thousands of people rallied in other cities in Indonesia.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had lunch with workers at an automotive factory where he promised to ensure stable working conditions and improve job prospects if the workers maintained political and economic stability.

"We want to do the best because we care for you," Yudhoyono told the factory workers.

In Tokyo, about 22,000 workers and labor union members rallied in Hyoyogi Park, wearing headbands and raising banners calling for job security.

National Confederation of Trade Unions leader Tsuyoshi Hatakeda said more than 17 million people in Japan are temporary or part-time workers. He urged companies and the government to increase full-time employment.

"Under such working conditions, there is no hope or bright future," Hatakeda said. "Let's make a change to create a society where full-time employment is the norm."

Japan's unemployment rose to five percent in March, with 3.3 million people jobless.

In the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, several hundred workers held a peaceful demonstration against a proposed four percent goods and services tax. "Oppose GST!" and "Long live the workers!" they shouted.

"We want the GST to be scrapped for good because it is a burden to the poor," said rally organizer G Ameerhuzen. "The government should increase corporate tax instead."

Police detained five people for carrying banners opposing the GST but they are expected to be freed later, translation said.

In Hong Kong, about 1,000 protesters—including janitors, construction workers and taxi drivers—demanded the government introduce a minimum wage of HK$28 ($4.30).

"We demand reasonable pay. We demand a share in the fruits of economic success," the workers chanted at an urban park before setting off to Hong Kong government headquarters.

The Hong Kong capitalist Chinese enclave is one of the world's wealthiest cities, but critics say its wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few. AP

INDONESIAN workers march along a main street during a May Day rally in Jakarta on May 1. AFP/ADE

Fat Americans threat to security, say generals

WASHINGTON—INCREASING rates of obesity among young Americans could undermine the future of the US military, with potential consequences increasingly too far to serve, two retired generals said on Friday.

"Obesity cuts through the overall health of America and the future workforce," said Lt. Gen. (ret.) Generals John Shalikashvili and Hugh Shelton, both former chairs of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, were in a statement.

Obesity disqualified more potential recruits for military service than any other medical factor, the two former commanders wrote in the Washington Post.

The two generals urged Congress to adopt legislation that would ensure better nutrition in schools, offering children more vegetables, fruits and whole grains while cutting back on foods with high sugar, sodium and fat contents.

"We consider this problem so serious from a national security perspective that we have joined more than 130 other retired generals, admirals and senior military leaders in calling on Congress to pass new child nutrition legislation," wrote the commanders.

The warning came amid growing concern that childhood obesity has turned into an "epidemic," reflecting a staggering one in three American youngsters.

A study released in March warned most American children are becoming extremely obese at a younger age, putting them at risk of dying decades younger than normal-weight children and of suffering old-age illnesses in their 30s.

The US military also faces a problem with troops already serving who are overweight, with some soldiers failing not on personnel because of their failure to meet fitness standards.

Although the military enjoyed record-breaking recruitment levels last year, officials say the growing problem of obesity could present a serious problem for recruitment efforts over time.

The generals endorsed a plan by President Barack Obama's administration to increase funding by $1 billion a year over $3 years for child nutrition programs.

Investing in nutrition made sense in the country was already spending $75 billion a year on medical costs associated with obesity, they said.

Citing figures from the Veterans Affairs Army Institute of Research, the researchers said the projection of potential recruits who finished their physical tests because they were overweight has jumped nearly 70 percent since 1995. AFP

Rwanda president sued amid visit to US college

KAGAME

OKLAHOMA CITY—Rwanda President Paul Kagame honored Rwandan graduates at a university on Friday, the same day lawyers for the relatives of two African exiles killed in a plane crash tried to serve him with a lawsuit accusing him of ordering the men's deaths.

Kagame, who has denied any involvement in the 1994 crash in Rwanda, was the keynote speaker at Oklahoma Christian University's commencement and celebrated the first graduates in the school's Rwanda Presidential Scholars program.

Kagame shook hands with the 18 Rwandan students and other graduates, saying education would be key in helping his war-torn country continue to recover from genocide. But he left shortly before the ceremony ended, and news announced that lawsuit filed on Thursday in US District Court in Oklahoma City.

University spokesperson Stan Frost said unsuccessful attempts were made to serve Kagame with the lawsuit during the commencement. There were no appearances by agitators during the ceremony.

The relatives of Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi don't live in the US, but filed the wrongful death lawsuit in Oklahoma because of Kagame's ties to the school, their attorneys said. The university has given Kagame and his wife honorary degrees.

The suit, filed by Geneva attorney John Crabtree, said Rwanda has "no independent functioning judiciary" and any lawsuit brought there against Kagame and most other defendants would be futile.

Habyarimana and Ntaryamira were aboard a plane that was shot down in April 1994 by unknown assailants as it approached Rwandan capital of Kigali. Both were returning from a regional peace meeting in Tanzania.

The $300-million wrongful death lawsuit accuses Kagame of ordering the plane to be shot down and of igniting the genocide that left at least 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead. The killings spread across Rwanda and lasted 100 days, until Kagame's Tutsi rebel army overthrew the Hutu government.

Kagame's government has denied the accusations.

Frost said Kagame came to Oklahoma to honor the graduating Rwandan students "and we're not going to get involved in the politics of the country."

Almost 60 Rwandan students attend Oklahoma Christian and 40 are involved in the scholarship program, including the 10 who graduated on Friday. The graduates' combined grade point average was 3.79 and all plan to pursue higher degrees.

"They will put to good use the knowledge they have acquired here when they go back to Rwanda," Kagame said. "What you get from a university is only the start of a much bigger assignment, a much longer journey." AP

Wild scenarios emerge in UK's chaotic election

LONDON—WILL LABOUR Prime Minister Gordon Brown's British chief get end up with the most seats—then dump the leader who stumbled into office clumsily? Will the right-wing Tories enter an awkward alliance with the center-left Liberal Democrats?

Could the ultimate failure from Britain's election be the radical overhaul of a conservative parliamentary system in a nation that jealously guards its traditions?

Strange scenarios abound in Britain's unpredictable election, in which the Tories seem set to win the popular vote yet could end up with fewer seats than Gordon Brown's Labour Party—and the only good bet seems to be that the once tumultuous Liberal Democrats will play the role of kingmakers.

"Wait we might be talking about is a once-in-a-century type of change, which is phenomenal," said Victoria Honeyman, a political analyst at the University of Leeds.

Labour, the main opposition Conservatives, and the election's unlikely insurgents, the once perennial third-place Liberal Democrats, are all expected to be denied an outright majority in the May 6 ballot—an unusual outcome that the British call a "hung parliament." UK elections haven't yielded one since 1974.

The frantic round of political bartering likely in fallout, unlike in Britain's usually clear-cut electoral system, could spark a shakeout that may end party leaders, dismantle the two-party system, and lead to a historic electoral reform.

Polls suggest that Labour will fall far short of the Conservatives and may even be beaten by the Liberal Democrats—but, due to quirks in the electoral system, could still end up with the most seats in the House of Commons.

That would put Nick Clegg in a quandary. Center-left Labour would be the Liberal Democrats' more natural ally, but teaming up with a discredited leader who lost the popular vote could be toxic.

One scenario being floated is that Liberal Democrat leader Clegg, who shot to prominence on the back of stellar debate performances, would demand that the Tories step down to encourage the backing Labour.

Labourites would have a strong incentive to cooperate. Brad Lawson, head of Labour affairs at think tank Compass, warned that the alternative was irrelevance.

"If we are now in an era of three party politics then the party that fails to build a partnership evidence itself to the table more," he said. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Thailand could slide to 'undeclared civil war,' says think-tank

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S PRO-Thaksin red-shirt protesters are set to launch a fresh push to force the government to call snap elections, after a think-tank warned that the country could slide into "undeclared civil war."

The Red Shirts have faced heavy criticism after about 100 supporters of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra barricaded themselves in a hospital in the capital Bangkok on Thursday evening, under the mistaken belief that the army was about to launch a crackdown.

The 1,400-bed hospital was evacuated after the army denied any such plans, and the Red Shirts have since apologised for the incident.

But the army has also warned that it will not tolerate any more violence, and has deployed thousands of troops around the capital in recent days.

The Red Shirts have been locked in a political deadlock with the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva since March 12, when they began a campaign of mass rallies and street protests aimed at forcing the premier to dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Abhisit has refused to budge, saying that he will only call elections when the political climate is more stable.

The Red Shirts, who are largely supporters of Thaksin, a billionaire telecommunications tycoon who was ousted in a military coup in 2006, say they will not disband their protests until Abhisit agrees to their demands.

Thaksin, who is currently living in self-imposed exile to avoid a two-year jail sentence for corruption, has been accused of bankrolling the Red Shirts' campaign—an accusation the movement has denied.

Thaksin's Medical Council criticised the storming of the hospital and asked protesters to respect medical personnel, while police were deployed at the hospital to ensure neither security forces nor Reds use the grounds.

Reds briefly removed barricades that obstruct the hospital's emergency entrance on Friday, but replaced them due to fears they would be vulnerable to a military crackdown.

Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, who oversees national security, said he had ordered police to keep entrances to the hospital open. AFP

Immigration law won't fix problem–top Arizona cop

PHOENIX/WASHINGTON—The police chief of Arizona's largest city said on Friday the state's controversial new crackdown on illegal immigrants would likely create more problems than it solved for local law enforcement.

The remarks by Phoenix Police Chief Jack Harris came as US lawmakers renewed a push to deal with their uphill bid to pass legislation this year overhauling the nation's immigration laws, saying the furor in Arizona has given them a bit deeper a lack of support from Republicans.

Arizona's much-old law calls for state and local police to check the immigration status of anyone they suspect is in the United States illegally if has arrested Latinos, civil rights activists and opponents' la...

LINDOS LIMITED immigrants wade through the Maricopa County "Tent City jail" on April 30 in Phoenix, Arizona. Some 200 undocumented immigrants currently serving time in the facility are fed twice a day, sleep in sweat-conditioned tents and issued striped prison uniforms and pink underpants/shorts to wear. —

With polls showing the crackdown has broad public support in Arizona and nationwide, Harris said at a news conference he understood Americans' frustration over illegal immigration.

But he criticised the new law as unlikely to solve problems caused by any of the estimated 10.8 million people who are in the United States illegally.

"I don't really believe that this law is going to do what the vast majority of Americans and Arizonans want, and that is to fix the immigration problem," he said. "This law ... adds new problems for local law enforcement."

Harris said asking officers to determine immigration status during an investigation would interfere with their primary job and "instead tells us to become immigration officers and enforce provisions immigration laws that I don't believe we have the authority to enforce."

The chief said his force already had 10 US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in its violent crime unit and that the law provided no additional enforcement tools.

Rounding out Christmas among police in the Phoenix valley over immigration, an Arizona sheriff known for cracking down hard on undocumented migrants sentenced a two-day immigration and crime sweep in the wake of the killing of a Phoenix police officer.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's "terror suppression" drives have led to allegations of racial profiling. Deputies stopped and arrested at least 63 people for minor offenses who could not prove they were in Arizona legally since the operation began on Thursday.

In Washington, Democrats have been accused of playing election-year politics by proposing a comprehensive immigration overhaul that critics insist has little chance of success.

The Senate chair proposal includes calls for bolstered border security, new sanctions on US employers who hire illegal immigrants and high-tech identification cards that all US workers would be required to carry. Reuters

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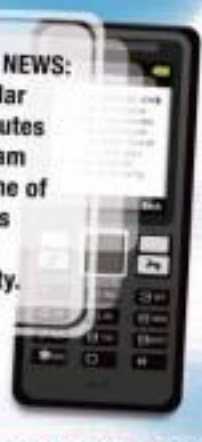

INQUIRER BREAKING NEWS: Two separate vehicular accidents, a few minutes apart, cause traffic jam along southbound lane of C-5 in Pasig City, says Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

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Despite 24/7 brainstorming, solution to capping well elusive

AS CLEANUP CREWS STRUGGLED ON Friday to cope with the massive oil slick from a leaking well in the Gulf of Mexico, dozens of engineers and technicians ensconced in a Houston office building were still trying to solve the mystery of how to shut down the well after a week of brainstorming and failed efforts.

They have continued to clean their consciences on a 40-foot stack of heavy equipment 5,000 feet below the surface of the gulf—and several hundred miles from Houston. Known as a blowout preventer, or BOP, the steel-framed stack of valves, cutes, housings, tanks and hydraulic tubing, painted industrial yellow and sitting atop the well in the murky water, is at the root of the disaster.

When an explosion and fire engulfed the deep-water drilling rig on April 20, workers drove a remote to activate the lifesaving preventer, which is designed to seal the well quickly in the event of a burst of pressure. It did not work, and a failsafe switch on the device also failed to function.

Since then, the crews' engineers in deep-sea oil operations have been working out of a British Petroleum (BP) office, grappling with the intractable puzzle of how to activate the device.

"It's a mystery, a huge Apollo 13-type mystery," as to why the blowout preventer did not work, said a person familiar with the efforts to activate it, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the subject.

Like Apollo-program engineers, 40 years ago (and also in Houston) cobbled together a long-distance fix to save the crippled spacecraft and its crew, these experts are trying something far beyond routine, shutting down an underwater, out-of-control well by remote command. And as a safe harbour the surface, the work also might as well be halfway to the moon.

The effort involves a half-dozen remotely operated robotic submersibles hovering around the blowout preventer, along with rubber support ships. The submersibles, designed for drilling work, are equipped with video cameras and tools like wire cutters and "bar scabs," metal connectors that can plug into hydraulic systems in an effort to operate them.

So far the efforts have not been successful. "They seem to be having hydraulic issues,"

OIL BOOM barriers erected to stop the spread of oil from the British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon platform disaster lie washed up on the beach after heavy swells and winds hit the coast of Louisiana on April 30. —

said the person familiar with the effort.

He likened the scene in Houston to a theatre works, with spectators from BP as well as Cameron, which manufactured the blowout preventer, and Transocean, which owned and operated it as part of the drilling operation, watching in shifts around the clock. Different groups will brainstorm and come up with new sets of procedures to be tried and then watch on video monitors as the submersibles carry out the work.

At a news conference on Friday Doug Suttles, chief operating officer for exploration and production for BP, said that experts from other companies and from the military had been asked to go to Houston to contribute to the effort.

Despite the lack of success, BP officials have vowed to continue, because shutting off the flow at the wellhead is the quickest solution to stopping the leak, now estimated at about 200,000 gallons a day. NYT

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Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

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Aging Marlou lifts Realtors past Tigers

By Mauro R. Cuzilla

MARLOU AQUINO PUSHED HIS 37-year-old legs to produce an offensive performance that lifted Sta. Lucia to a 108-94 victory over Coca-Cola last night in the PBA's Fiesta Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Aquino scored 28 points capped by a triple with a second remaining as the Realtors picked up a second straight win and improved to 3-4.

The Tigers absorbed a third straight loss in a 4-4 card after entering the tournament with three straight victories.

"The way he played tonight, and if he stays in shape, our problems in the post will be solved," Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez said of Aquino, the only legitimate center remaining in his lineup.

His production was his highest since a 32-point performance in the 2006-07 edition of this tournament in a Game 2 quarterfinal loss to Red Bull.

The 6-foot-9 bespeople played with youthful zest that rubbed off on the fellows, who were in Sta. contenders all night and led as many as 15 points.

Anthony Johnson finished with 19 points and 17 rebounds in 45 minutes to join the Realtors. Bally Williams and Ryan Reyes, the team's 1-2 local pounds, finished with a combined 29 points, 13 boards and 10 hooks.

Gary David led the Tigers with 26 but James Penny, who came into the game averaging a shade over 28 points a contest, was held down to just 15.

Penny had 13 rebounds, but his lukewarm offensive game eventually doomed Coca-Cola.

Tie scores

1st - 12th 9th—Johnson 19, Aquino 10, Reyes 10, Williams 10, Dao 8, Gamalinda 8, Fajarito 8, Ighalo(wala) 5, Mendoza(c) 5, Miranda 5, Ebondo 0

COCA-COLA 94—David 26, Lassiter 15, Penny 15, Belga 11, Ilescas 7, Mbuyaga(c) 6, Wilds 5, Ferrer 4, Ross 2, Cruz 2, Ahmad, Cruz 0, Antonio 0.

Quarters: 30-15, 50-43, 74-68, 108-94

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*Prices may vary in selected stores

SSC-Lyceum tiff kicks off V-League q'finals today

By Jannine W. Paya

SAN SEBASTIAN PUTS ITS WINning streak on the line against champion Lyceum in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 quarterfinals today at the FEBTC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags will go for a fifth straight win against the Lady Pirates in a duel that also pits two dominant Thai imports at 2 p.m.

Teammates we let our guards down and we became complacent, so we have to work on that," ASC coach Roger Gonzaga said in Filipino.

"Our target is the top four, but I would be very happy if we can go all the way to the Finals."

The University of Santo Tomas Tigresses, who swept last season's double-conference, remain heavily favored to dent Lyceum, battle against the fifth ranked Lady Bluejays.

Coach Shaq delos Santos said the Tigresses, despite posting a 3-1 record in the eliminations, have yet to find their solid form.

"We were still not in top condition [during the eliminations]," said delos Santos.

Adamson, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, Arellano and Southwestern University completed the top-eight following the elimination of weaker teams Far Eastern University and University of Sto. Tomas-Recoletos.

That saw Jeng Bedico, the league's leading scorer averaging 20 points, headin the Lady Stags' bid along with top spiker Suzanne Roces, Joy Benitez and Elaine Cruz.

Lyceum's Hermyn Sanering notched just a shade behind Bedico's average with 19 markers, but coach Emil Lontoc also expects strong showing from Jay Casas, Dahlia Cruz and Nica Gutierrez.

"I keep reminding them not to lose focus and not to worry too much when they make mistakes," Lontoc said in Filipino.

Alex Mabes, last conference's Most Valuable Player, banners the Tigresses' formidable lineup along with Mara Rosario, Maika Ortiz, Bernie Santiago, Angeli Tabaquero, and guest players Ayeh Tolentino and Jovelyn Gonzaga.

Facing the Lady Bluers' campaign are Iris Fontang, Sharmaine Soler, Roman Pajarito and Jennifer Manzano.

It's a Jungolf party at RP Amateurs

Tabuena, Mondilla clash for title

By Cedrik P. Tupas

MANILO FORTICH, BUKIDNON—THE 2010 Philippine Amateur golf championship turnout sure to be the coming-out party for the country's top junior golfers.

Boasting more than seventy up-and-coming standouts, teenagers Miguel Tabuena and Dale Mondilla forged an all-Jungolf final for the men's title with contrasting victories yesterday in the prestigious tournament presented by Amsing at the Del Monte course here.

Flashing a solid short game, the 15-year-old Tabuena capped his emphatic 6 and 5 victory over former national player Peter Villaber with a 6-1 yard dispatch birdie on the 13th hole.

Mondilla, a year older at 16 and playing on his home course where he once shot a 36-under-par 62 during a practice round, handled out defending champion Ian Clarvellia at finalist in the senior division. "The jungolfers are playing past their level."

"It's going to be hard, he's (Mondilla) an

CLOSE Mondilla will try to pull the trap against a formidable foe in Miguel Tabuena as the two collide for the championship trophy. Cedrik P. Tupas

overall champion since Artemio Murakami took the course as a 15-year-old in Fiesta Week.

The son of the Del Monte caddie master, Mondilla is looking to emulate the feat of fellow Bukidnon native Frankie Minoza, who won the tournament in 1979.

"I have to keep my focus," said Mondilla in Filipino. "I worked hard for it in this position."

Chinese triathletes dominate Subic race

CHINA LOOKED EVERY BIT A SPORTS powerhouse as its top three bike-swimmer-cum-runners were on hand to sweep the women's elite competition in the 2010 ITU Subic Bay International Triathlon yesterday morning at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

Wang Yi, the top-seeded female triathlete in China, saw action in Subic for the first time and showed that she got up to rule the pesodrag 1:58.xx-min-40K-bike-10K-run in two hours, 11 minutes and 44 seconds.

"I like the course, very scenic, but the hills in the bike leg gave me some trouble," Wang said through an interpreter.

Compatriots Fan Lina secured the finish line tape in runner-up time for a time of 2:11:20 and Zhang Yi organized a time of 2:17.06 to round up China's podium sweep.

China also topped the under-23 elite with Liu Ting breaking the tape in 2:12:00, over a minute ahead of Japanese racers Hanaki Ito (2:13.17) and Ito Hoki (2:14.41).

Japan also came out strong in the international elite team competition, followed by Hong Kong and Kazakhstan.

National team veteran Leo Gobio Lerget secured up as the best Filipino finisher as fourth in the women's elite by clocking 2:18.21, despite a recent leg injury.

"But now my leg is okay, just in three weeks," said Lerget, ranked as the country's top triathlete. "But the problem was that I was alone against the Chinese girls who were helping one another."

Lerget simultaneously won the Asian Junior Triathlon Championship, which Japan dominated.

Japanese Rikio Tadaki completed the short-distance race in less than an hour to log the junior male crown with a time of 59:46.

China's Chi Xiyan settled for a runner-up finish by timing it one hour flat, while Korea's Lee Ji Sung took third in 1:00:50.

Japan also swept the female division with Sato Yuka riding in 1:06.14, followed by Takahashi Yoko (1:07.22) and Yamamoto Nao (1:07.37).

"We're very happy with the record turnout," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco. Jazmine M. Ilagan

Del Monte teenager a future Miñoza

By Cedrik P. Tupas

MANILO FORTICH, BUKIDNON—Chyle Mondilla was definitely an outsider to win the title of the 2010 Philippine Amateur Open Golf Championships.

But to veteran Igor Clarvellia, the 16-year-old Mondilla was merely living up to the potential he saw when he took the then 14-year-old as scholar of Living Stones Foundation.

"The first time I saw him, I knew this kid will go places," said Clarvellia, a director of the foundation. "With his determining, move and competitiveness, I think it's time for someone like (women's) riders."

Mondilla will be going for the national crown over title against fellow jungolfer Miguel Tabuena, who is a year younger at 15.

Clarvellia also took Mondilla should get more exposure by going out of the confines of the Del Monte course, where the famous Frankie Minoza learned the game.

That's why he is set to turn Mondilla over to Tommy Manzano, the man in charge of handling the national team.

Even before he reached the PP this recent finals, Clarvellia could not help but marvel Mondilla's 8-under 64 at the Legends Course in Southmont in two weeks ago during the Junior World Golf Championship qualifiers.

"He don't want to deprive the young [it] of total[be a great player]," said Clarvellia, referring to Mondilla, the son of the caddy master in the Del Monte course, who just finished his junior year at Holy Cross High School to ride Camp Phillips, Makilkon.

"We are willing to put him under Tommy's program on condition that he continues his studies and continues to play for Del Monte in the PAL Inter-club," said Clarvellia.

MERCEDES-BENZ TOUR

Murakami, Lascuña trail by 3 in Pattaya

PATTAYA—ARTEMIO MURAKAMI AND Antonio Lascuña remained in contention, just three strokes behind Thailand's Udorn Duangdecha, after three rounds of the $50,000 Singha Mekiya Open Saturday at Siraphra Golf Club.

Murakami, semi-final finalist winner of the kickoff event of the Mercedes-Benz Tour last April 17 at the Manila Southwoods, shot a 71-under par 69 to tie Gamroba, who had a 71, at 209.

Jay Bayron carded a 70 for 209 while Marvin Sitamalan closed at 211 after a 73.

He started the day with a one-stroke lead and finished the third round with a two-shot advantage over one of Thailand's golf top powerhouses, Chaichai Nint.

Udorn, again proving his trademark pyrokinetic celebrity parts, what he says brings him luck, also shot a 69 for a 11-under par 209.

He was one stroke ahead of fellow Thai Chaichai Nint, the big hitter who shot a world record 10-under par 256 in last year's Ind Open in India. Nint carded a 67.

Murakami, who had earlier rounds of 71-66, and Lascuña, who started the day just a shot off the lead with a 69-67 start, was tied for third with Thailand's Siriya Ambanwarakiled (69) and Korean Sheh Seok-hyun (67).

Lascuña, second in the big last year, was still within a stroke off the lead but bogeyed

LASCUÑA

MURAKAMI

the last two holes.

"There are some very good players chasing me so this is not going to be easy but I am pleased with the way I held it together today," said the 39 year-old Libero.

Junior Painters, Beermen rip Batang PBA opponents

MARING BAI OR SHENG-SAN Juan and Batang San Miguel Mixers/Alaska came away with lopsided victories yesterday at the start of the annual Coca-Cola Batang PBA Summer League at three Cuneta Astrodome.

Tyler Tio scored 24 points off the bench to power Batang San Miguel Beermen past Batang Rain or Shine-San Juan by a 79-52 rout against Batang Sta. Lucia Realty-Bang, while Patrick Alegre scored 13 of his 14 points in the second quarter as Batang San Miguel/Alaska clubs barred Batang Barako Coffee-Manila, 54-32.

The Batang Elasto Painters leader the game in the third quarter Tio scattered 16 points there as the Batang Elasto Painters outscored the Batang Realtors, 20-13, to stretch their lead to 57-39 going into the fourth quarter.

Batang 3SSB-Mandaluyong traveled 3-0 after one quarter before Alegre got things going to the second quarter, where the junior Beermen outscored their rivals, 21-5.

Maquilar, Sabal rule BDO race

ISABELA (MAR. 6) MARCEL Maquilar topped the premier 6-kilometer races of the recent BDO dance for Life at the sprawling Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City.

Alfredo Aguarangas raked the 5K men's race, while Rosario Nevel dominated the women's side of the event lined up by Banco de Oro managing director Maureen Shollards and Rick Reyes, an officer of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines.

RUNNERS Amateur fun starring gets at the recent BDO flare for Life at the Mall of Asia grounds.

In the BDO categories, Nasal Sillawarde and Sonnette San Luis took the 5K crowns, while Benjamin Teodoro and Rosalie Cadelo ruled the 2K race.

The Retribution of Transaction Banking Group bagged the Chairman's Plaque for fielding the most number of employees while the Security Unit took the President's Plaque for the biggest delegation.

Singer Brenda and Bea Garson were in the cross division, while top 8 Dermaja and Michelle de Vera topped the kids race.

SPORTSWATCH

'Bulling' last round slated

GAMATCHES, BRIGADIERS MAKE ONE LAST CHANCE TO JOIN THE "Batang Bulling National 9-Bulling Derby" on Tuesday at Pinoy City Courts.

National Federation of Basketball Breeders (NFBB) president Ginoy Palmares Jr. said the derby series has a guaranteed prize of P1 million and a relay fee of only P1,000.

Registrations must be completed at PSC office tomorrow, May 3, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Interested parties may call 8474 800, 8474 140 and 09 07 463 9901.

PBL-Liga merger gets off ground

A CONSENSUS EMERGED SUNDAY that the PBA will not be involved in the recent merger of the Philippine Basketball League and the Liga Filipinas.

Fears would the PBA may be implicated, when its two Class PBA clubs Ginebra San Miguel and Coca-Cola, submit their franchises to both leagues.

But PBA Commissioner Noli Eala, a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the PBA will not be involved in the merger.

"I explained that [Monday] to representatives of the Liga Group of Companies, but it does not have anything to do with the PBA," Eala said.

Eala said the PBA is not against the merger, which had other PBA governors as signatories

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

THE MEN behind Sarilikha produce native bags out of pandan leaves and water hyacinth. People training to be entrepreneurs manufacture most of the products.

With unique high-end bags, jobs are filled

Sarilikha founders started out with only P255

Text and photos by Karen Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

VICTORIA, LAGUNA—(GMA Ph&CO, 60, still vacuum enthusiasm when talk turns to business or training potential entrepreneurs.

A former head of a Laguna-based non-government organization (NGO), Perez has not lost interest in extending help to those in need—particularly those who are unemployed.

In early 2009, Perez, with partner Raoul Bartolo, 29, put up a venture called Sarilikha to produce native bags and accessories.

Sarilikha products have already started to penetrate the international market.

It took only P255 to start up the venture. The resource covered the raw materials they needed.

Sarilikha products are made of indigenous materials, such as water hyacinth and pandan leaves. There is a showroom in Barangay Bubli, Victoria, Laguna, where products are on display.

But the showroom does not only produce native bags and accessories. Since its inception, Sarilikha has also ventured building entrepreneurs, most of whom come from impoverished communities.

Affiliate trainees

It was an exhibit in 2008 that started what turned out to be Sarilikha.

Perez was still with an NGO that he had established himself, when he decided to join an exhibit in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

The exhibit had a theme that called for a cleaner Laguna Lake and the development of economic opportunities in the vicinity of the lake. It was a year before the issue of the overflowing lake was brought to the public's attention.

Perez says the year before the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy," he was already concerned with the problems not only of Laguna Lake but of other lakes in the province.

He was referring to the seven lakes in San Pablo City, where he used to initiate employment opportunities for residents.

"Several years ago, I observed how environment had affected the means of living of those who were dependent on the lakes. One of their problems was the presence of

(ENTREPRENEURS) B2

Nights at the Forum

By Linda B. Bohlin
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento and Nilo Jesus Delfino

AT LIGHTS START TO DIM Wednesday and Thursday nights at Romulo Boulevard in the corner of Edsa and Pioneer in Mandaluyong City, life begins to stir on the alley, known as Robinsons Road, between the mall and the Cyberpark Center Tower I.

On the short concrete service road, food stalls light up and open at 10 p.m., offering anything from balut to lechon, sausages to pastries.

This is the Rambutan Night Market, a collection of food shops that is yet another indication of how the growth of the call center industry is influencing the life and lifestyle of Filipinos.

Though the night market is open to anybody who passes by, it is designed primarily for the hundreds of call center agents working at the Robinsons Cyberpark Complex.

The night market, of readily collapsible stalls under temporary tents will remind anyone who has been to Singapore of the shared meals in Lavender Food Center, an open-air collection of food stalls that sell typical Singaporean dishes.

The Forum Night Market is the second to open in Metro Manila. But in the Ortigas Center, site of Mandaluyong, a part-owner of Emerald Tower is completely closed to traffic from midnight to 11 a.m. Saturday. At the Forum, the alley remains open to motorists.

Lilibeth B. Jose, the team captain behind Rambutan, believes he beat Jac in the English tongue-tied, says the Emerald market was started on the request of OCAL the Ortigas Center Association Inc. that is composed of building and land owners around the Ortigas Center.

The association saw the market as a rebuke to drive workers to the Ortigas Center just markets at night.

Jose says she saw the potential of the night market as a money making venture in Ortigas Center when she participated in bazaars in the area. So three years ago, on Chinese New Year, they launched Rambutan. At first OCAL did not understand why they chose to open the market so late...or so early...in the day.

Flourishing

But Jose saw that the call center industry was starting to flourish. Ortigas Center now had more than 50 call center companies, Jose says. "I personally thought of it (market) being done from early morning to serve the evening crowds [out] of the call center industry," she says.

After a few months in Ortigas, Jose says people wanted slumming to have the night market for more than just a day. So they were given only one night in Ortigas before they looked for another venue.

Jose, who believed they were the first weekly overnight eatery food center, says the Robinsons was a perfect choice for their expansion. "Aside from them being many call center companies in the area, they can provide us the security we look for to protect our vendors and customers," she says.

Although the night markets drew many other people, including vehicle finishes, Jose says about 90 percent of their customers were call center agents. At Dennis, Rambutan is leasing space from Robinsons while in Emerald they deal with OCAL.

Ayie Velasco, manager of the Forum, Robinsons complex, says they had the night market scheduled in the middle of the week because they agreed with the organizers that, by then, call center people would be hankering for something different to eat, aside from the usual offering of the mall and fast food joints. The market would provide something different so call center agents did not have to go far. The complex, he says, had more than 1,000 workers.

Velasco says they left it to the organizers to choose the vendors who would participate. Jose says most of their vendors were small entrepreneurs.

Unlike Rambutan, Velasco, vendors had to pay one night deposit, one night advance rental and joining fee. They could drop out any time they like, he says, as long as vendors for them and use their deposit for one extra night. Otherwise, rent for the following night was collected in the morning.

Jose says the joining fee was good for eight weeks. If vendors found the venture unsatisfactory they could renew their contract, paying the same amount as the joining fee, for another 12 weeks. Rent renewals would be every six months.

Jose says they made sure people selling the same stuff were not placed beside each other. They also left it to the vendors to set his/her prices.

No alcohol please

But alcoholic beverages were a no-no, Jose says, as they wanted to avoid untoward incidents caused by people having too much to drink.

Though many vendors left after a few weeks, those who stayed had found the night market profitable, she says. "Most of our regular vendors are Emerald now grass P50,000 to P70,000 a night," Jose says. In Pioneer, vendors gossed P7,000-20,000 a night.

More than 50 vendors were currently participating in the Emerald night market. Velasco says they only had 28 so far since they started only in January.

He expects not only the Pioneer crowd to grow but also the vendors, to reach the same way Emerald developed. And Jose says there are still room for expansion in both venues.

He says she and her husband personally supervised the night markets, working closely with OCAL in Ortigas and Robinsons Rambutan management, as well as local barangay officials and the concerned Philippine National Police stations.

As for sanitation and hygiene, she says 95.99 percent of foods served in the night markets were freshly cooked and served hot.

OCAL, she says, was very strict about cleanliness so vendors had to clean up their spaces before they left. The same rule applied to Pioneer. Jose says they also had their own cleaning crew that regularly cleaned the dining and seating areas on market nights.

She says customers were not only buying food to eat right then and there but also to bring home. In Ortigas, average customer purchase was about P200, with one client usually buying food from two to four vendors.

She estimates that some 1,000 to 10,000 customers visit the Emerald market every week. Many call center agents from other industry hubs had also started to patronize the market, she says. Pioneer was now getting 800-1000 customers every night.

ON RAMBUTAN: Food various food stalls are set up every Wednesday and Thursday from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Rambutan Overnight Market caters mostly to workers at the Cyberpark complex and neighboring establishments. Rambutan is a tropical fruit that comes "hairy."

FOOD buffs flock to Emerald Avenue at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City

Meralco celebrates 'Funtastic Friendship'

MERALCO RECENTLY HELD its annual Employees' Week to mark its anniversary and honor the members who have dedicated their lives to the utility company.

During the celebration, workers held an outreach activity dubbed "FUN-tastic Friendship Fair"—a key anniversary feature that has been held since 2007. At the fair, kids from underprivileged communities were invited to the Meralco compound for a day of games, carnival dances and chores. The children received food treats, and they got to take home foodtoys and loot bags.

To guide the children and help them enjoy the day, employees volunteered to play the roles of cops and firemen, or older siblings.

Account coordinator Gina Nanaw was one of the proud volunteers.

"I volunteered for the Meralco FUN-tastic fair because I've seen how joyful the kids are during the event. Even for a day, they experience how it is to become a normal happy kid," said Gina, who has been with the company for 23 years.

During the latest FUN-tastic Friendship fair, almost 900 children, aged 6 to 13, were fetched from institutions like the Lanao Viruha Foundation Inc., Kanlungan sa Ito sna Mukuy Mumbai's Vineyard Learning Center, and Hubig ng Buhay Foundation.

Sister Agnes Olano from the Lanao Viruha Center described Meralco as "a philanthropist."

"We are very happy they invited us. They gave the children joy by learning this activity, working closely with their parents," she said.

One of the children, 11-year-old Bernalyn Montecalvo of the Lanao Viruha Center, said she would never forget her experience at Meralco.

She marveled at the toys and food, and expressed hope that she would be treated to a similar experience soon.

With unique high-end bags, jobs are filled

From page B1

too much water hyacinth," Pasco says.

He then thought of how he would help the residents get rid of the problem. One solution was to turn the surplus of water hyacinth into a profitable venture by using the material to produce bags.

According to Pasco, the main issue then was massive job loss.

The government at the time was trying to provide jobs for displaced workers, so an emergency employment program was implemented back then, he says.

Pasco and Bairado decided on processing their water hyacinth idea in an exhibit. There booth caught the attention of provincial officers of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

"DTI saw the potential of our products to contribute to help displaced workers," Pasco says.

This also signaled the start of hard times.

Eventually, the two were tapped as affiliate trainers of the government agency. From there on, they would be frequently invited to train people how to produce native bags and accessories.

They have also been tapped by a number of private institutions and nongovernment organizations such as the Child Fund International (CFI).

After the devastation of Ondoy, Pasco and Bairado were asked to train CFI beneficiaries in Laguna. Most of the trainees were badly affected by the storm, but they were taught how to make native bags, which helped them earn additional income.

"Orders from our clients are guaranteed to our control and trainees' interest so they could apply their acquired skills and earn at the same time," Bairado says.

The products that were bought by clients were actually the result of a collective effort of Bairdikha and their customer and former trainees, he explains.

Bairdikha keeps in contact much with their trainees, past and present. In this way, Bairado says, the trainees are given the opportunity to apply what they have learned.

To clarify, however, that students are highly encouraged to start ventures on their own, with the guidance and support of DTI and Bairdikha.

High-end native bags

Pasco claims that he feels both honored and proud that their products are now starting to penetrate the international market.

Bairdikha has become a partner of Gary Aurelio, a designer based in the United States with an eye for high-end bags made of water hyacinth.

Now, Bairdikha is still producing native bags with a cheaper look.

Bairado shares that it merely takes trial and error to come up with products that will sell.

Bairdikha blazed the trail to producing native bags with a leather look, Bairado claims. The bags have caught the attention of buyers from other countries like the United States.

Pasco and Bairado continue to share their innovations with their former and current trainees.

"Through motivation and values formation, we were able to create jobs for people," says Pasco.

They have also asked their trainees to share their ideas and designs with others, he adds.

Bairdikha buys raw materials like water hyacinth and pandan leaves from residents around Laguna Lake, helping them earn extra income, according to Pasco.

"Our talent is endless if you don't know how to share it with others," adds Pasco, who also add fulfillment as the greatest profit a man can get from his business.

"In a way, this venture can also be considered financially rewarding. But the real test make us Bishop-style. And we are happy how this effort has turned out."

BAIRDIKHA is trying to give native bags a more classy and sophisticated look.

Globe helps . . .

From page B1

lot to prevent this but probably nature's input is ignored than our little efforts," says Gapangan Mayor Isidoro Cassata.

Last month, Globe launched its environment sustainability drive called "Globe Save Trees," with the toothless Orailongs as its mascots/project.

"Globe is doing this as part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. In Globe, CSR has been integrated in our business strategy for a long time now," says Jeffrey Hedreyda, head of the company's CSR department.

In "greening" its business practices, Globe has saved P4 million in the last five years with its practice of recycling lead acid batteries and its efficient solid waste management system.

Tinkaper says 37 of Globe's cell sites all over the country run on renewable energy such as solar and windpowers.

He says the firm bills its customers online, discarding the bill notices printed on paper.

Globe has also replaced all of its plastic packaging materials with cardboard. Its employees are encouraged to practice carpooling while top executives use video conferencing to limit air travel to reduce the company's share in carbon emissions.

"As corporate citizens, it is important that we are able to take care of our own ecosystem. The outside the responsible use of energy for our network infrastructure, provide social and economic assistance to local communities where we operate, and harness strong employee engagement," Cuyno says.

This sector is recession free

From page B1

B1 6750 has been offering jacuzzi such as liposculpture which starts at P50,000 per area and Thermage at P87,500.

Wider reach

The promotional offerings, conveyed through direct marketing, e-mail blasts, text messages and newspaper banner ads, have been very successful. "In mid-February, our sales was the biggest in our history," he says.

Newspaper ads have been more effective than billboards in getting more clients. "The reach is wider. We get inquiries as far as Mindanao. When they see our promo for a tummy tuck for as low as P112,500, they call. (The ordinary price ranges from P150,000 to P180,000)." It's a hard sell considering how regularly now," says Santos.

Asked how Beverly Hills 6750 has been growing, Santos replies that it has been diversifying its services in the past four years. It has added hair transplantation, bariatric surgery and will introduce a new type of breast augmentation in the country. "Only 20 centers in the States do this (technique)," he says.

Despite the worldwide economic downturn, the beauty business has been stable. "It's the notion that people aspire for. The market is All-and upper C which are not as affected by the recession," says Santos. In fact, Beverly Hills 6750 will open a branch in Tiendesitas, which is lined with clinics and aesthetic centers.

"Our research shows that Quezon City is a very good market for aesthetic businesses. Even among our direct competitors, their location is in the uptowns. Why is QC earning as much in comparison to Makati, Greenhills or Ortigas? Our research suggests that residents in QC and the catchment from the north such as Bulacan and Bulacan love the spending power but they don't flaunt it. These are business owners who have the cash flow."

The Quezon City branch will have more treatment rooms, some of which will include showers and tubs for body scrubs.

'Islands of wellness'

Santos says when B1 was launched in 2006, the business was aligned with President Arroyo's medium term economic plan for creating medical tourism or promoting the country as "Islands of Wellness." The health and tourism departments projected 250,000 medical tourists. Last year, tourism secretary Joseph Durano said there were only 1,000 who came for medical purpose.

"The Philippines is not in the global map for tourism. The predominant factor is the negative publicity our country gets abroad," says Santos. He quotes Al Jazeera as reporting that the Philippines' poor as much as 45 percent negative press. "Would you go to a country where you hear stories of flood, kidnappings and bombings? It's a job our government has to address."

Santos says that the medical tourism is often associated with the overseas Filipinos who have become the country's secondary market, next to its main market of 35- to 55- year olds.

B1 6750 is looking for new business. "We're in the process of setting the framework for global marketing. It's tying up with stakeholders in countries that spend money on medical tourism," says Santos.

Need a job? Learn Korean

By Miguel Mitatere
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—FOR HER PARENTS' lack of financial resources, Jocelyn Peñalosa was forced to stop pursuing her accountancy course. She instead took on a loan and enrolled in a review center for Korean.

Now 27 and still jobless, the daughter of farmers from the upland town of Bauko-an, Benguet, is hoping to get any job in South Korea.

But it is not enough for her to chase her confirmed and apply for a job there. She has to learn to speak Korean.

Peñalosa was among more than 2,000 jobseekers who queued here early this month to register for a license language test under the country's employment promotion system.

The test, including application processes, would be administered by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the South Korean government-accredited test agency, the Human Resource Development Service (HRDS).

Thousands of other job seekers nationwide did the same from April 6 to 8 in the Visayas and Mindanao. They have to pass a Korean language test on May 2, which will be conducted in various testing centers nationwide.

POEA Deputy Administrator Hjovena Catalig said those who qualified to register for the test should have applied and have become in "active status" in the POEA online manpower registry as of March 31.

To qualify for the language test, applicants must be not more than 38 years old, have at least one year work experience, have valid documents such as passport and pay $17 (P753) as test fee.

Workers with a record of illegal stay in Korea are not qualified to apply for the language test as they are not eligible for the H3 visa (a working document), according to Korean rules.

To increase their chances of passing the Korean language test, applicants could access a reviewer supplied by the South Korean labor ministry, which, since 2007, has been available at the POEA website.

"There's no need to enroll in Korean language schools," says Catalig. "I'm worried about the exorbitant fees being collected by Korean-owned language review centers, which have proliferated and have become unregulated."

She said job seekers could instead access government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) for tutorials on the Korean language.

This year, the Korean HRDS would include in its roster of job seekers those who would score at least 60 points on reading and listening. They should also be among the top 5,000 passers and should pass medical examination.

"Being in the ranks, however, is not a guarantee for employment as employers would have specific hiring requirements for workers," says Catalig.

But she says that since August 2004, over 21,000 Filipino workers have been sent to South Korea through the government's employment permit system.

The good news is that the basic monthly wages of overseas Filipino workers sent through the employment permit system have been raised from an average of $860 (P38,271) to $904 (P40,054) in current job offers, said Catalig.

Before 2004, as many as 80,000 workers were able to seek jobs in South Korea through independent recruitment agencies. But many of the workers were not legally documented.

The government, since mid-2004, has become strict in job placement policies for South Korea for the safety and guaranteed protection of workers' rights and welfare there, says Catalig.

"So this is the importance of the employment permit system because it is a government-to-government arrangement," she adds.

While the system is in place, thousands, however, needs patience to wait for her luck.

"While waiting for any job opportunity I join some family members in their small-scale running ventures," she says.

Still, she says, she studies the Korean language on her own as her possible passport to a job in the emerging economy now known for its growing automobile and electronics industries.

"KOREATOWN" appears to have sprung overnight in this corner of Baguio City.

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Sunday BIZ

EDUARDO Santos and Bernales Maribojoc

AT THE dental facility there are gum depigmentation tools, laser teeth whitening machines and other "state-of-the-fears."

HYDRAULIC treatment beds and other marvels of engineering serve to remind patients that their health and well-being come first.

This sector is recession-proof

Freego signs on as a partner in the Izuru Challenge 2013. Leading arena event Freego partners with Izuru, the location seeks to deliver original technology for this year's most exciting promotional activity, the Izuru Challenge 2013. Present during the contract signing were Freego's Marketing Services Supervisor Angelyn Salit and Brand Manager Jet Esparon (right), and Izuru's Assistant Sales Promotion Manager Myrna Gonzales (center).

"We are happy to be part of this campaign, as Freego exudes the luxury ambiance that is being showed that's known for its convenience to consumers," said Freego Marketing Services Manager Maria Criselda Mercado. "The well-located event is also an appropriate platform for the brand to highlight its latest that has drama for men. These comfortable and stylish jeans can be worn through even the toughest of challenges, making it perfect for the Izuru Challenge 2013 participants." Jet Esparon, Freego Brand Ambassador, said in jest.

The Izuru Challenge showcases trail-efficiency driving for Izuru's roster of trusted vehicles. Timed and hosted by participants competing in Izuru's regular the most fuel-efficient rating for their Izuru vehicles. "This year's not featured a new component that allows the participants to participate by guessing how far a full tank of diesel fuel can take a dedicated Izuru vehicle as it traverses a specially designed North Luzon route. The lucky winner will take home this same model of the featured vehicle and Freego products.

For details, log on to www.izuruchallenge.com.ph. The Izuru Challenge is composed of 3 legs: the 67 Stories, which runs on March 3 to May 26; Crossroad from April 1 to July 12; and 3 Kilos from August 1 to October 19.

By Margo C. Enriquez

AN INDICATOR THAT THE PHILIPpine economy has fared better than the rest of the world is the increasing number of adults, mostly women, getting whiter skin, smoother armpits, streamline forehands and higher nose bridges.

When Beverly Hills 6750 Medic Specialty Aesthetic Institute opened in 2006, it didn't want to look like any Johnny-come-lately. While the popularity of the major players in the field was driven by celebrity endorsements, Beverly Hills 6750 took a different strategy. "Our concept was lineup for everyone. It was hinged on providing the best physicians, advanced technology, best value and not-to-extreme promotion," says managing director Dr. Eduardo Santos.

To prove its merits, BH 6750 launched a reality show, "Miss Ugly No More" where some comely women were given a major makeover from chin to tootsh.

The show featured the medical team that chronologically transformed them. The winner, Ian Murillo, ended up being a scrambled for *PEM*. As a result, one of its campaigns showed the winner's debris and After photos on the billboard.

Santos admits BH 6750 got some flak from marketers who preferred not an incongruity between its logo and the billboard. "They said the billboard distracted from our brand. You're dealing with 'ugly' and you're Beverly Hills which is about beauty," he says. "Personally I think it had a big impact on creating brand awareness. A lot of people could not believe such a transformation could take place."

Scalpels and botox

Seeing the demand for cosmetic and medical body-contouring, it focused on its dermatology services. "We saw, early on, that the shift for surgical services was not as steep as for dermatology," says Santos.

"Our profitability comes from our skin-care services. It contributes the biggest share of revenues and account in the mix of the services," he says. "If you ask dermatologists what are the two things they can't live without, it's a scalpels and botox." The cubicles are usually packed with patients getting glutathione injections or laser hair removal.

Complementing the core services are the dental clinic, plastic surgery, varicose vein therapy, cosmetic gynecology and weight management.

"We have a strong concern for patient's safety. That's one of the pillars," Santos underscores. "You've heard of horror stories from other medical groups. Some of that has happened here. It's because of the professionalism of the doctors and the quality of the anesthesiologists," says Santos.

He adds that its operating rooms are of hospital-based standards. The ventilation makes use of HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters which remove airborne organisms. This is essential in the prevention of the spread of airborne bacteria and virus and, consequently, infection. The operating rooms of other competitors merely use the common window-type air conditioners.

But BH 6750 had other barriers to cross such as competing with another group of the same name and the usage of being located in a posh address. BH 6750 had to contend with the Beverly Hills Medical Group for creating confusion in the market. When it filed a case with the Securities and Exchange Commission, a decision was made by the Beverly Hills Medical Group to stop using the name. "The powers of the SEC is only quasi-judicial. It doesn't have much teeth to the implementation. We are looking at legal remedies. There has been confusion to the market," says Santos.

In addition to 6750 Manila gave the impression that it was expensive and intimidating. On the contrary, the pricing strategy is more affordable than the competition. To bring customers to its doorsteps,

THIS SECTION B5

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About Dr. Joe Goldblatt, CSEP
Dr. Joe Goldblatt, CSEP has been a part of the events industry for the past 30 years. His primary legacy is his leadership role in the development of the formal education in event management. His creation of the Event Management Program at George Washington University and the Event Leadership Program at Temple University is providing event professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers. A host of honors in the special events industry, he is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from International Special Events Society.

Contact persons: Marlon Tiambo and Rose Tenorio 403-1423 • 403-7401 • events@dlsu.edu.ph/space

Denuded highland patch gets a makeover from Globe

MORE than 70 bikers joined Globe's 45-kilometer off-road biking challenge. The event will set the stage for the reforestation of Kapangan, Benguet.

Text and photos by Elmer Kristian Dualoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KAPANGAN, BENGUET—EMPLOYEES OF telecom giant Globe endured this town's rough back roads and steep mountain ridges on their off-road bikes in their campaign to reforest the area.

Globe's new corporate drive is to rebuild the Cordillera's dwindling forest cover.

On April 24, more than 70 bikers from the Globe Adventure Team, Subaru car owners, and Baguio and Benguet cyclists joined the Cordillera Challenge, a 45-kilometer bike ride along the trails of Benguet.

Globe organized the event to raise environmental awareness and promote ecological activities among its employees.

"Our initial activity in the Cordillera is among the many initiatives of Globe to promote our advocacy in protecting the environment," Ernest Cu, the company's president and CEO, says in a statement.

Alongside the challenge was a fund-raising activity that raised more than P327,000 in a week. The money was given to a local conservationist group, the Cordillera Conservation Trust (CCT), which was tasked with planting 15,000 trees in a 10-hectare forest.

"Kapangan is the ideal area in Benguet. A lot of it is barren. ... We'd like to change this [condition] of the area," says Joseph Brad Allan, CCT executive director.

In the last three months, the dry spell triggered cocahon forest fires. The most recent fire burned 3,000 tree saplings that CCT planted last year.

"Almost every day and every night we see mountains getting burned. We are doing a

GLOBE B5

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

■ Marilou Gilo-Aban, dynamic educator and practical visionary /F2

It's the values, stupid

THIS IS ONE PRESIdential election where there is hardly any fanconfusion, it seems. Almost everybody seems to understand the importance of having to make a choice—and to fight for that choice.

A lot of people even wear their choice, as we have written about so much as they do now. Yellow, green, orange are more than the colors of summer 2010. They speak of a voter's conviction, or personal political preference at the very least.

In the next two weeks at least, our lifestyle will be very political, whether superficially political or profoundly political. Amid such sorting, we've come up with lifestyle do's and don'ts for political candidates.

Eleksiyon 2010

Lifestyle do's and don't's for political candidates

Don't's

- Don't chase. Yes, even if you couldn't care less what the country says, or what history will say... even if you've grown callous and thick. And while we're at it, don't break the rest of the Ten Commandments.
- Don't flaunt the Rolex, even if your wife, daughters, the daughters-in-law or mistress have dozens of them.
- Don't stint your power tan on traffic-choked Edsa, with your blazing shirts and screens on motorcycles. Not while your bodyguards who are obtrusive even in shorts. Display the arrogance of power, and by night be the acquired skill being passed on to this generation of Filipinos.
- Don't insult our intelligence. Slogan soma/reports, bogus candidates come across as—what else—bogus to us.

Do's

- Do have your sense of values. Our society hasn't been

Misconceptions about mental health

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Rubio-Gobuldo

UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN SO much info about mental health issues.

What I found interesting was how, in this day and age, there is still a stigma attached to issues surrounding mental health and mental well-being. Stress is predisposed when the mind relaxes.

First of all, it is important to distinguish between the two specialists.

A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in the treatment of mental and behavioral disorders. In the Philippines, he or she is duly licensed and board certified by the Philippine Psychiatric Association.

A psychologist, on the other hand, is an individual who has completed a program of study in psychology—usually an undergraduate and graduate degree—and is engaged in research, consultation, assessment, teaching or other applications of psychology. He or she has passed a licensure examination and locally, has been accredited by the Psychological Association of the Philippines.

Both specialists engage in psychotherapy; however, only a psychiatrist can prescribe medication, a psychologist cannot.

"Today we have all sorts of patients who come to seek our help—both children and adults who may have just experienced, or are undergoing a difficult period in their lives. And we do not always coordinate because in certain cases, psychotherapy is enough."

Banong says that the stigma that remains is due to a lack of awareness or education.

"Much of the negative points stem from misconceptions that date back to many decades ago. This, I suppose, is also why sometimes the patient is brought to us already deeply troubled. What many people and families don't realize is that the earlier the problem is addressed, the better the outcome."

Life today has become more complex and complicated, Banong says.

"Sometimes people cannot take the stress. Many different types of issues occur. Losing a job or a loved one will more often than not result in deep sadness or depression, a very real and human emotion. Almost everyone goes through some form of depression at one point in their lives. And just because you have an episode of depression does not make you incompetent or ill." Great men and women have in fact, been known to struggle with bouts of depression throughout their lives.

In a country of 87 million people, Banong says "there are only 400 licensed psychiatrists and majority of them are based in Manila.

"Of that number, only 40 are child and adolescent psychiatrists. Such a small number when you consider that 36 percent of our population is in the 0-14 year old age bracket, and 20 percent are in the 15-24 year old bracket. Very critical, developmental ages," he says.

It's the values, stupid

From page C1

saved, and even improved, by its leaders' acquired skills (competencies, attributes or mastery of politics/economics/industry and so on. At the end of the day, when faced to make a choice, it is the leader's moral standings that will lead him to choose between Php P1 billion for himself and the flood on the side (or fertilizer in the seedbeds or computers in the classroom) of a downtrodden family. It is his unalloyed sense of values that will make him do the right thing. Uncertainty is easy when one has a moral compass.

Actually, with the above, re-reading a proxy much awkward, as recent history shows. To paraphrase a Reagan era catchphrase—it's the values, stupid.

- Be remembered, at the end of the day, you can't take a vain you. Not your hidden bank accounts, your houses, your mistresses. The crypt in the mausoleum, come to think of it, is only the size of a vase, an urn. And that's not even the size of your office folder files.
- Do remember that people will talk about you long after you've gone. It's called legacy. THE

New docu on Ninoy Aquino assassination premieres on History channel

A NEW DOCUMENTARY ON THE assassination of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. will premiere today, May 2, 8 p.m., on the international cable network History.

"The Assassination of Benigno Aquino, Jr." is a compelling, hour-long documentary that examines the murder death of a man who former Liberal Party head Senator Aquilino Pimentel described as "the greatest President we never had."

AETN All Asia Network executive producer Chris Humphrey sought the help of former Senate President Pimentel, the team responsible for the award-winning material for documentary Ninoy Aquino.

Based on the highly detailed series of newspaper articles by journalist Ninez Cacho-Olivares for the Philippine Daily Inquirer in 2008, Assassination posited the efforts of Ninoy's loyal cohorts to bring the documentary's director Antonio Ibarra, project producer Sara Duterte-Carpio Abiquin and Veronica Poten, broadcast journalist Ed Lingao, and filmmaker Mike Kinosaian.

History and the Aquinos: Production team prepares a unique range of interviews, from that of Ninoy's family represented by his eldest daughter Kelley Aquino, to former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Two new sources offer interesting insights into the cases' formation: reporter Dr. Raquel Fortun was called in to give her opinion based on autopsy reports and photos, and National Press chaplain Msgr. Roberto Olaguer who gained the trust of the soldiers during their incarceration, responsible on a relatively unexplored angle the military conspiracy.

"No one is completely unbiased," says the documentary's director Jeannette Ibarra. "Even journalists the first two confessors of their inner story is almost always turned toward a viewpoint. It helps that we have a lot of eyes and consultants looking into the script."

Humphrey, the British-born executive producer adds: "Ninoy had a fearless attitude to the assassination, thanks in part to his Pinoy wife and in-laws. It reflects the dramatic and moving images associated with this documentary as "Incredible."

Although the footage is well known to almost every Filipino," says Humphrey, "we should never underestimate the power of those images to a first time viewer."

He also can't help but marvel at the man himself.

"Just watching Ninoy deliver his speeches, you can see how charismatic he is. It didn't take an alias why his legacy is so strong."

History and History HD are leading destinations for revealing, award-winning original non-fiction series and event-driven specials that connect history with viewers in an informative, entertaining and mind-stimulating manner across multiple platforms.

Programming covers a diverse variety of historical genres ranging from military history to contemporary history, technology to natural history, as well as science, archaeology and pop culture. Among the network's program offerings are hit series such as "Dogfights," "Battle 360," "The Universe," "Tales of the Underworld" and "How The Earth Was Made," as well as acclaimed specials including "Life After People," "China's First Empire," "Genius" and "Beatrichetta II: Heir." Visit http://www.historyasia.com.

Samsung Showcases Product Line-up for Continued Growth in the Philippines at Annual AV Roadshow

Full HD 3D Solutions to Be Available this month; New Audio-Video Line-up and Digital Camera, Key Strategic Products for Samsung Philippines in 2010

PDI's Raquel Gonzalez and Alec Vea Hagen with media personalities dancing animatedly during the lit-to-tune

SSPCO President KC Park, Marketing Director Bindo Jimenez, Head for Consumer Electronics Product Management Group Manager Melissa Mallea, Product Manager for IT/Digital Ramon, Director for Sales Consumer Electronics Amazon Maurice and Consumer Electronics AV Business Manager Jay Ha.

"CREATURE Comfort"

Antipas Delotavo in Singapore

THIS YEAR THE NUS MUSEUM AND Artseen Gallery + Studio will co-present an exhibition entitled "Dito Pahiwatig: Antipas Delotavo," by the critically acclaimed Filipino artist and painter recognized for his social realism work.

Delotavo holds quite a significant role in Philippine art history as he creates a bridge between two opposing groups. He traditionalist and the post-modernists, by presenting an approach that borders on the emblematic and representational style yet retaining the classical technical method.

Antipas Delotavo's long-standing practice is marked by a commitment toward social realism as an expression that lay bare society's physical and psychological issues. This is a practice that is contingent on the shifting political and economic grounds that define the status and conditions of the underclass.

Militarism of the 1970s, populist uprising of the 1980s, the waning influence of the political left, and the emergent global economy provide changing contexts to this practice, further complicating the vexing questions of art-making as cogent political statement, and its problematic relationship with the economic and political structures that sustain practice.

In his recent series "Dito Pamayag," Delotavo deals with this predicament from a broader societal perspective, laying bare contradictions inherent in the necessary political engagement with capitalistic mechanisms of commodity and power. Beyond the purely expository, his art is both revelatory and interrogative, posing questions and presenting implications.

"Dito Pahiwatig: Antipas Delotavo" runs until Aug. 1. It will be exhibited at the NUS Museum, University Cultural Center, National University of Singapore.

Explosive play sends up elections, power politics

By Walter Ang
Contributor

DORDY HEM Harrison (Principesa Bukaka) Mar Cabico (Papa Obo), Acey Aguilar (Kapitan Tatay) and Shamik Dasco (Mama Obo)

SCENE from Sipat Lawin Ensemble's "Haring Tabo I" directed by JK Arceo Jr.

AUDIENCES cringe and squirm in hilarious discomfort.

SIPAT LAWIN Ensemble's "Haring Tabo-I" is an explosive production, figuratively and literally. The "Tabo-I" is a paper bag (think airplanes) stamped with an ominous warning that you can use the bag, just don't give up on the production. Obviously this isn't for make-sensitive theatergoers.

But for those who have a sense of humor and adventure, an appreciation for irony and a strong constitution, it's one of the most fun and funny productions they'll ever get to see.

The title alone (initials of the scatological humor involved (a friend who knows Bisaya explained it to this blockhead). The show's own announcement runs it to "un mulin a mulin hanef" and "pulot-sensen filth, greed, avarice, gluttony, ambition, filth, greed ... [all] infuriate."

Yes, it is toilet humor brought to an extreme but well-thought out and intelligent level.

Ridiculous and ugly

In this Tagalog translation of French playwright Alfred Jarry's "Ubu Roi" (King Ubu), the first thing audiences see are several orange plastic pipes hung on the walls wrapped with translucent cable (industrial), garishly stained of white hair on grotesque, ribbed skirts in the shape of human genitalia.

The production designers amplify the cast's excessive coloring and crass body language by using disfiguring make-up and disproportional bodies on the actors. They also employ gelatinous goo and slimy concoctions to stand in for body fluids and parts that are severed, smeared, expelled and, sometimes, forcibly removed.

Sound designer Teresa Barrozo adds the necessary layer that pushes the play along.

The group, composed of alumni (theater majors) of the Philippine High School for the Arts, makes the audience sit as close to their performance area as possible. As the actors play out the story of how Papa Obo and Mama Obo use malevolent means to seize power and how they wantonly abuse it later on), almost everything is thrown in the air and audiences alternately scream and cheer as they dodge the projectiles.

The production's extension to victims examples of "the medium is the message." Director JK Arceo probe brilliantly pushes the text to its limits and arouses all of those vulgar metaphors to expose how revolting and alluring power is of disgusting and ridiculous things in us.

Shown in all its offensive and ugly glory, the temptation and acknowledgement makes us laugh at it all.

Wonderful and unrelenting

While the upcoming elections flavor the play with cringing government, it is not difficult to apply the production's representations to any kind of system that involves power grabbing, whether it's between family or friends, institutions like the church, hospitals and the academe, and even the workplace.

We think back to when the audience is asked to kill one of the innocent characters. Why was it so easy to gleefully oblige?

"Haring Tabo-I" will have a rerun May 7-13, dubbed as "The Return of the Comeback of the New And Improved Slowly Evolved Haring Tabo-I," which will "serve as a countdown to the May 10 elections," its officers say sarcasm.

Call 0917.500.4753 or e-mail sipatlawin.ensemble@gmail.com.

FORCED audience participation

LEAVE YOUR TRAIL IN AN AMAZING SAFARI ADVENTURE AT THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA SKYGARDEN

At SM City North EDSA, things came to life at The SkyGarden Safari -- a free exhibit displaying 14 animal families amidst the ground and top levels of the SkyGarden.

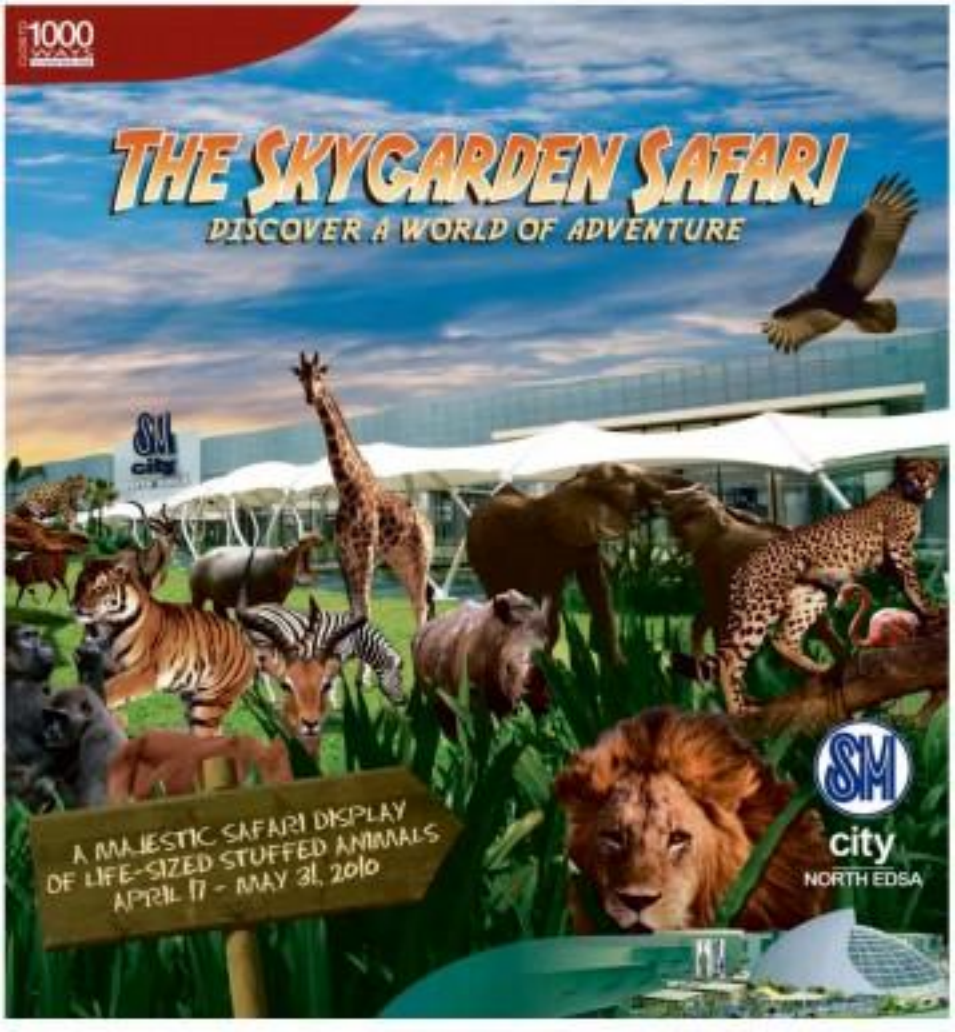
The successful launch last April 17, 2010 was well attended by known personalities and interested mall visitors alike. They took part in different activities lined up for the day and were drawn by the sight of life-like stuffed animals.

Attendees with their families and friends were able to experience an adventure of spectacular attractions. Hosted by Paolo Bediones along side Zaijan Jaranilla, The SkyGarden Safari kicked off with an educational walkthrough, live African tribal dancers, real live animals and a photo wall display encouraging kids to pose and have fun.

The adventure continued with family and friends in an exploration of restaurants ranging from grills to fast-food restaurants to open air cafes promising a full stomach, while seizing the opportunity to relax and bond with each other.

So, what are you waiting for? Head on to SM City North EDSA until May 31, 2010 for The SkyGarden Safari; sure to be an amazing summer treat. At SM City North Edsa, you'll find more than a thousand ways to go wild with glee.

For more info, visit www.smnorthedsasafari.com



IN THIS ISSUE
Secret garden in the south /14

Sunday LIFESTYLE

From Brazil to Bohol in my flip-flops

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Believe it or not, I bought more Havaianas in Rio de Janeiro

I NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT my sin-tech collection. They are like my security blanket, as my whole ensemble seems to project better with added height.

At the 5th annual Make Your Own Havaianas (MYOH) though, I was closer to the ground than ever before. For once, I literally had to stand on my own two feet, just a flip-flop sentimeter off the ground.

Creativity and imagination were my only tools, as I pre-scrutinized my shippers with utter piss. Fluorescent tops and even fluorescent soals. Havaianas Managing Director Anne Gonzales said they were all out for this milestone event, which dovetails nicely with their ongoing promo to fly a group of four to Brazil, the origin of these arch-rubber cassino, where Brazilian bombs and beauties hang out in the Copacabana beach all day. Check out www.havaianas.ph/flippies.com for details.

Brazil has always been a dream destination and I was so lucky to tick that off my bucket list (mentally, thanks to the careful planning of ever-organized cumsurance Maila Gumboa). A visit to Rio de Janeiro completes two Gs in fact—Christ the Redeemer and Sugar Loaf Mountain.

Christ the Redeemer, the 120-foot high statue of Jesus on top of Corcovado Mountain overlooking Rio, is one of the most iconic landmarks in the world, and has been named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. It's currently under repair and covered with scaffolding, but that never stops us stereotyping Pinoys with our digital cameras.

Also standing proudly above Rio is Sugar Loaf Mountain. The high rock in Guanabara Bay shows off the city beautifully whether day or night. It is absolutely breathtaking.

Touristy stuff

Our little group of "girls" had so much fun doing the touristy stuff, like visiting Escadaria Selaron, a street of tiles from all over the world. A Chilean painter, Selaron, fell in love with Brazil and created this evocative stairway as a tribute to his adopted country. He is still adding tiles, and we were happy to spot a Pinoy tile among the thousands of designs.

Latin America is a land of treasures. One can visit churches like the Catedral Metropolitana de San Sebastian or the exquisite Chapel of our Lady of Montserrat.

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Beside the city of NUVALI, the vast shades of nature invite you to find your way through the day. From the softness of the sand to the roaring Hobby sun, let the calmness around you change up your spirit. And through an endless garden walk, trail through the sunset on the evening settles upon a quiet cabana.

Living in Santierra, indulgence is as simple as coming home.

SANTIERRA
NUVALI

From Brazil to Bohol in my flip-flops

From page B1

Alternatively, there is the beach, where we are reminded that Brazil is the land that invented the thong. For explanatory photos, check out Hajo Lauref's blog at www.stylebible.com.

Of course, there are Pinoys in Brazil. Our Pinoy friend Jaime Gilmartes took us to a churrascaria, a place where skewered meat is served like a meat feast. Brazil is also a land of uber-rich hotels. We stayed at the Hotel Nesuto, designed by Philippe Starck, wonderfully fronting Ipanema Beach.

We had quite a number of must-see attractions, including observing favela homes around the Santa Teresa area. One of the most picturesque parts of Rio, Santa Teresa is located high on a hill and offers stunning views across the bay. Its narrow streets flanked by townhouses with vivid pastels have so much local ambient and color. Its most important architectural gem is the Santa Teresa Convent.

While some of us were shopping, the artists in the group visited the Museu do Arte Contemporaneo, a fantastic spectacle of modern neuvo design. If you've seen the movie "Avatar" (James), it's the lair of Dr. Evil. I'll let you guess whether I checked out Dr. Evil or did well to my credit card.

Believe it or not, I bought more flavonoids in Rio. They are really the perfect beach partners, and a nice pareo/sarong or headbands making patiently at home while I traipse around the world.

Eskaya escape

When Deanie takes our family out for a beach weekend, he wants nothing but thrusters. Now on our list is the Eskaya Beach Resort & Spa. Eskaya is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, and this five-minute and spa destination is found in Bohol, where one can also see the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers.

Eskaya's sales and marketing director Ralph Lim recently hosted an elegant floral-themed dinner at the resort's dining place, Lumayang Restaurant. VIP guests like Guatemala Ambassador Mollie Abkara and her husband, Zambia honorary consul Louie Abkara, plus Angelo Sanchez, consul Helen Ong, former Ayala exec Arthur Yap, and visionary Joel Ubaldo enjoyed delectable cuisine with overflowing generous wines.

The award-winning Lubao Children's Choir enthralled guests, including celebrity visitors like Angelika de la Cruz, and multi-awarded actor Cesar Montano, who was with his beautiful wife Sandrene. Cesar took time off from campaigning for governor of Bohol. Visit www.eskayabeach.com and plan that much-needed vacation.

Hair therapy line

All those beach days have taken a toll on my hair, so I am in need of hair therapy. Aside from my weekly treatments at Penneve for deep conditioning, I have discovered Schwarzkopf Professional's BC Bonacure Hairtherapy to revive my hair's shine.

The revamped line was recently launched at the SM Stocks of Toptyle Marketing. PBA dropdite reporter Grace Lifiten hosted the event, which offered guests salon-exclusive hair treatments. Technical Manager Remy Soberano gave special passes like Rosanna Ocampo and Juana Magdalena Sepangco personalized hair care programs to rebuild hair inside and out.

Dr. Rina Medina, head of the Hair Unit at St. Luke's, lent her expertise in solving hair dilemmas via the product. Rina Campos and Kat Yulayo were happy that it's now available for everyday use.

Schwarzkopf Professional is also sponsoring the 3rd Celebrity Squash Cup to be held at the Bulao Country Club in Pilisaven Alabang. The fun games spearheaded by model mom Tweety de Leon will be on May 8.

I am joining in support of my good friend Tweety, although I will play miserably for sure. Other celebrity players like Phoen Savosita, Angel Jacob and Ryan Gastilloje have bravely agreed to play as well. I hope to be in the same team as 8EH-CBN Publishing's Ernie Lopez so we have a chance to win.

Presented by the Palms, the event's other sponsors are Nivea, Bobbi Brown, Olay Pure, Speedo, Prince, Head, G3 Collection, Monsters and Cases.

E-mail the author at angelmoon@inquirer.com.ph

Green Initiatives from the SM Supermalls

LIVING GREEN AT THE SM SUPERMALLS

We've all heard about the challenges about living in a world of climate change and global warming, and recent events like the devastation brought about by the Ondoy and Pepeng typhoons and the long hot summer we are experiencing has brought these doomsday scenarios closer to home.

And we all ask, how do I do my share to help save the earth? Or simply can I do anything at all? The good news is that modern technology has made it possible for us to make earth-friendly lifestyle choices through innovative products that are available in the SM Supermalls.

All it takes is awareness and a personal advocacy to embrace the green lifestyle. Here, are some tips on shopping green from the SM Supermalls.

GO ORGANIC

Eat healthy and green with 100% organic vegetables like romaine lettuce, arugula, spinach, cauliflower, carrots, cucumbers, and much more, which you can find at SM Supermarket. You can also eat right and light with organic rice products that are rich in fiber and pesticide-free. To ensure that the products carry the production standards of organic food, SM Supermarket works only with suppliers with a certification from the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines or PhilCert, an independent, private organic certification body.

Organic Veggies for Healthy Living from SM Supermarket

Go natural with this Real Healthy Organic Rice

This F&C Brown Healthy Organic Rice is rich in fiber and pesticide-free.

LOOK FOR GREEN HOME SOLUTIONS

You can make a difference and literally make the switch by simply replacing your light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFLs, which will not only decrease your energy bills. Or do your clean ups using biodegradable cleaners that not only remove tough stains and odors, but are also free from bleaches, alcohol, and ammonia. You can find those at IKEA-type stores at the SM Supermalls.

Light up your home in an eco-friendly way with this 42watt bulb that lasts for 6,000 hours, these 60 Edison energy saving bulbs with a spiral tube for better distribution, and this Halika bulb that can help you save up to 80% energy cost.

Simple Green Multi Purpose Cleaners

SHOP WITH APPLIANCE SAVVY

Modern technology has made it possible energy saving appliances, and its best to look into these with a green perspective. There are inverter air conditioners that save up to 40% with technology that flexibly changes compressor operation speed to suit different situations, tailoring and lowering power output as required. There are also a wide range of refrigerators that will keep your food fresh and crisp, as well as freezer and refrigerator combinations that will give you convenient access to fresh food everyday. Check these out at SM Appliance Center stores at the SM Supermalls.

Enjoy a cool summer with this Samsung split type inverter conditioner which saves up to 53.4 energy consumption. It also reduces vibration for a quieter air conditioner.

This whirlpool Top Mount No Frost Refrigerator is a great addition to your kitchen.

COOK GREEN

Choosing the right cookware is another way to healthy eating. And this begins with selecting pots and pans that not only help us prepare delicious meals, but are also free of toxins, have environmentally friendly packaging, and can help us save time and energy. Brands like Redfern and Calphalon, both available at the SM Homeworld section of the SM Department Store can help us cook green and eat healthy.

Redfern Green Casserole with glass lid and wooden roasting rack and rubber soft touch. Keeps even when you cook in a high temperature.

Enjoy cooking your with Redfern's yellow Grill Pan with Bakelite handle.

Green Pan Wok with see through tempered glass lid has a Thermolon coating that makes cooking food healthier and easier, giving more taste and flavor to your meal.

Calphalon Contemporary Non-Stick Daily Grey's Omelette Pan with a 20cm Cover combines durability and performance with fast clean-up and easy low-fat cooking.

CREATE A GREEN ROOM

Living green begins with making eco-friendly lifestyle choices, and it often begins with our environment. Materials used in our furniture and linen. There are furniture makers that use environmentally friendly wood that have passed the European Environment and Manufacturing standards like the Bonset collection at Our Home. You can also choose environmentally friendly bed linen like Canadian's Anti-Bacterial line, that has a ultra-finish that helps prevent harmful bacteria like dust mites, molds, and mildew from forming in the sheets. You can find this at Our Home's Megamall store.

Eco-friendly Lumber Bonset dining set

Bonset bedframe in American oak finish

Canadian's pure and beautiful line has a 220 thread count and ultra-finish finish.

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It's interesting to discover how nature and modern technology can produce amazing skin products like those made from aloe vera and grapes. The Grapebelle line helps maintain the skin's moisture while gently cleansing and conditioning the skin to leave it feeling soft, smooth, and supple. Aloe vera extracts, on the other hand, replenishes moisture and softens your skin, and keeps your hair strong and healthy. Check these out at Watsons and Beauty Inc SM stores at the SM Supermalls.

Banana Boat Soothing After Sun Gelee/Watsons Facial Mask, both formulated with aloe vera extract.

The Grapebelle line for Watsons

Peace Philharmonic Orchestra holds reunion concert in Cebu

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Piccerelli

It was one of the most memorable concerts in years; people filled the theater literally to the rafters—some even sitting on the stairs

TWENTY SEVEN AGGI Ingrid Sala Instrumenta and her siblings—Juan, Jose, Bernabe and Arnold—put up the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation to honor the memory of their parents. Music had been more than a way of life for them.

Thus, the Sala Foundation embarked on a 30-year Music Development Program that produced the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) which eventually became the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP). Ingrid has always said that these 30 years were the best of her life.

For Cebu, too, as it grew the southern metropolis a cultural soul, and its golden era of music. This was to become of the frequent performances of CYSO, as well as visiting artists who shared their knowledge with them.

Many CYSO members became soloists in their own right and moved on. Some are abroad, others in Manila or different parts of the country. Many of them have kept in touch with each other and for quite a while planned a reunion concert.

Its reality took shape late last year, spearheaded by sisters Hazelle Magbanua-Arcenas (violin) and Hazel Magdalene-Sanchez (percussion). They contacted everyone they could and the result was that close to 60 of them said they'd be in Cebu for the big night—April 30—and seven days before, the buzz to rehearse.

It felt was elusive. "Cebu Symphony in Motion; A Reunion Concert," and the venue was, Theater Grand SM City Cebu. It was presented by the Magbalone family's sister Academy of Music, PPP and the Sala Foundation, in cooperation with the Ateneo Learning Center and SM. The Arts Committee was a Platinum Sponsor.

It was one of the most memorable moments in years. People filled the theater literally to the rafters. In the balcony, they sat on the stairs, and in orchestra, chairs had to be added. Manning the box office was Sala Foundation president Susan Montenegro Sala, assisted by a dutiful Kimberly Jean Sala, Rosemary Grand of Dumaguete.

Ingrid, looking lovely in a salmon-pink dress, took her place at the center of the front row, and rightly so, for this was a concert in her honor, as a tribute and well-deserved homage. On the piano rose was SM's Marissa Fernan, who had been at the frontline of this event since Day One.

My wife and I sat on row 4, a choice seat, as we were next to Sister Mary Placid Abaja of St. Scholastica's College in Manila. She had been greatly instrumental in encouraging Ingrid to pursue her 30-year program. Also with us were my cousin Jose Mollar Sala, and my aunt Carmen Rodriguez de Martinez with daughter Candida.

Powerful rendition

Program hosts Jean Castanilla and Mary Rose Villaseca in Bisaya/pop ... announced the start of the event with the national anthem ... perfectly rendered by the PPO. Its powerful rendition was a harbinger of what the rest of the evening would be like.

Four conductors who through the years had directed the orchestra took turns with the evening's repertoire. First was Abel Ferer with Ott Svoboda's "Daphnis in the Underworld," then came JoAnn Eckarte with "Carnaliteia Fantasia" by Mascagni; Rodolfo Flores with the "Cannon Suite" by Bizet; and Roberto "Ebet" del Rosario with "Finlandia" by Sibelius.

The CYSO alumni, now dubbed PPP, returned to play a suite from Rossini's "Barber of Seville," conducted by Flores; and Samuel Barber's "Adagio," a difficult piece beautifully rendered by Dexter Shetzer Mary Placid, in the end, whispered: "This is a fitting eulogy to Pilar Sala."

Ober-dat Rosario dressed a listening Tagalog as he held the baton for Bernard Goxon's medley of Philippine folk songs. Finally recognizable were "Pamulinawen," "Dahil Sa Iyo," "Leaviwik Kawayan," "Sampaguita" and "Bandanera." Ebet was back at the podium to conduct the 1st movement from Mozart's "Symphony No. 25."

While the Arts Council's grand piano was wheeled over to discreetly and seamlessly take place, Sister Mary Placid was asked to come up stage and say a few words. Eloquently and enthusiastically she recalled the start of Ingrid's mission.

Beautiful music

She also stated that Constance should be proud of this great accomplishment, saying that all one had to do was listen to the beautiful music played that evening. She singled out Leanne Sala, daughter of Jeanne and Jesse, one of the violins in the youth ensemble, as most likely to follow in her Tita Ingrid's steps. Leanne shyly shakes her head, but she is gifted with singular drive and perseverance.

The evening's culmination was close, and as Ingrid went up after a video on her titled "I Wanna Like his Others," was shown. As she stood, Dennis Esguerra came in sing "You Raise Me Up," as each member of the orchestra presented Ingrid with a white rose, and finally with a grand bouquet of flowers. There was also a plaque of appreciation presented by Flores, and Mon Ramiro Mercado, PPP's current master.

It was time for Ingrid's response. She reminisced about the best 18 years of her life being those when she nurtured PPP. "Tonight, I feel like a debutante, being given those white roses, and this is the first time I get a bouquet before even playing a single note."

The time for the grand finale had come, with Ingrid at piano soloist and the whole PPP playing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. Conducting was Prof. Jeffrey Eckarte who captures the essence and style of Herbert von Karajan.

There was much applause during the standing ovation, and so Ingrid obliged with an encore—the last movement from Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G. More applause, and another standing ovation followed, with the loudest cheers of "Bravo" coming from Sister Mary Placid.

The program hosts addressed the audience urging them to be as supportive as they had been when and her similar occasion comes again. How about an annual reunion concert? Or one every two years? Surely Cebu can rise up with a longer list of sponsors and patrons.

ENCORE! Sala Sarmiento (center) with her two quartet: Brian Cinabenza, Sara Gonzales, Gerry Gonzales and Jeffrey Sebero

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

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How to connect with people– and make them feel good about you

STORY ON PAGE E2

Drink your way to a healthy summer

Summer is truly a season of strengthening ties with your loved ones. It is the perfect time for families to bond with each other since the schoolyear is over for the kids, and parents can enjoy a much deserved break from their daily grind. But given the rising temperatures caused by the El Niño phenomenon nowadays, everyone should make it a habit to drink as much fluids to avoid dehydration and heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

With the continuing heat wave, water is still the best option to stay hydrated. It is ideal that we drink several glasses of water throughout the day and the best time to drink fluids is before one even feels thirsty.

In staying hydrated these scorching summer months, it is best that every member of the family should be mindful of their quantity of water intake and more importantly, the quality of the drinking water that they will consume. Mothers can be assured that the family can stay hydrated by drinking clean and safe drinking water such as Wilkins.

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Wilkins is available in various sizes: 330ml, 500 ml, 1 Liter, 1.5 Liter, 2 Liter, 4 Liter, 6 Liter, in all major supermarkets and drugstores nationwide. The 5-Gallon bottles of WILKINS can be delivered in key cities across the country. To have WILKINS 5 Gallon bottles delivered to your home or to find out more about the trusted Wilkins dealers in your neighborhood, simply call 813-COKE (816-2653) today.

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Since mothers like you hold the power to decide what's best for your loved ones, give them Wilkins today. Remember, your family's safety is in your hands.

How to connect with people—and make them feel good about you

By Rowena C. Burgos

IS IT BEING MANIPULATIVE to speak to others in a way that your hearer will please them?

Parents of the to-thine-own-self-be-true school may think so, but the people on the receiving end of your courtesy deference and regard will not.

In her new book, "How To Instantly Connect With Anyone: 96 All-New Little Tricks for Big Success in Relationships," columnist-consultant, speaker and writer Leil Lowndes has assembled 96 techniques one can use to make others feel good about you—often by making them feel good about themselves.

Those techniques work best, of course, when applied with sincerity and not phony zeal. The purpose is not to flatter people, but to engender their positive regard. Endearing? Galvanizing? That's up to you to decide.

It must-read for anyone struggling to connect with strangers, work associates, family and potential mates, "How To Instantly Connect With Anyone: 96 All-New Little Tricks for Big Success in Relationships" is a gem of a book full of interesting stories and practical how tos.

Readers can skip to the section they feel they need the most help with, without having to read the entire book. The trick, the author said, is to read the chapter that addresses your problem area.

> The secret? Make them feel good about themselves—and not through flattery

In impatient ones can skip to the end of every chapter to get a synopsis of what to do if they don't have time to get into the details of why a certain technique might work.

Interesting sections

The book covers the gamut of interpersonal relationships, not just romantic interactions.

- **Make a Great Impression.** This chapter discusses things like eye contact, making people "like to meet you," and creating an impact before even a word is exchanged.
- **Impressive Hellos and Goodbyes.** Making connections is the focus of this section, whether for business or pleasure. It also discusses how to avoid connecting with folks you find draining or don't want to meet.
- **Ways to Get Conversation Flowing** is about conversation starters and sensitivities because any social situation, including people who don't speak the same language.
- **Tricks To Enjoy Parties** is an especially helpful section for shy persons, or for those trying to make an excellent impression at big events.
- **How To Handle Invitations** speaks of ensuring that one's invites get received favorably, and, conversely, how to tone down invites yet still stay on someone's positive side.
- **Be a Good Communicator** to Win Affection shows how to master the art of conversation, even worthy persons even if you aren't quite there yet.
- **Avoid the 15 Most Common Things You Should Never Say or Do.** If you want to need something, announce dishonest or unimportant, this is the section to check out first.
- **E-mail for Personality and Professionalism** offers tricks to help ensure e-communications virtually.
- **Icons to Make a Big Impression on Your Cell Phone** includes boosting someone else's self-esteem using merely one's cell phone.
- **Sharpen Your Current Connections** tackles ways to re-ignite friendships, romances and acquaintances with family, including one chapter about miscblossoming when your partner calls you by the wrong name.

Four tricks

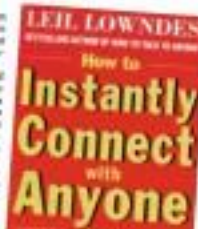
Leil he gives if dining and flirting with easy—as things one could appreciate with excitement and trepidation. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. You want to make a good impression on your potential love interest, yet the very act of pondering how the other person perceives you can make you less comfortable.

Lowndes recommends four tricks for making a great first impression, whether you're crossing the pick-up scene at a bar or on a first date.

1. **Establish eye contact.** According to Lowndes, eye contact signifies "honesty, respect, interest, intelligence, candor and confidence." But what makes eye contact good? In a word... longer.

You need to look at someone long enough to actually connect with them, not just a brief flicker or love and dove. Lowndes offers a few strategies for maintaining conversation eye contact. Think about the exact shade of his brown eyes, the unique symmetry of his eyes.

2. Use the almost-touch. Touching the other person on the arm or the shoulder is a standard flirting technique. The physical contact indicates interest and comfort. Lowndes suggests something else, the almost-touch. Reach out like you're about to touch him, but stop before you do. This works on men ("Their fantasies go wild wondering what is coming") and women ("She may appreciate your affection but can't initiate proof being too forward").



3. **Be super and enthusiastic**—up to a point. Here's a dilemma: How do you come across as interested in someone without sounding overly interested? Let the other person speak first, then match his level of enthusiasm. That way you won't sound disinterested or desperate. "The words you'll use to first date, or when someone asks, dance you to some-one else," Lowndes says.

4. **Make a good last impression.** The way you say goodbye might be even more important than the way you say hello. Studies have shown that when people think about a just-ended, they're more likely to remember the way they felt at the end, even if it's regarding only a few minutes from how they felt during the event itself.

To create a good lasting impression, advises Lowndes, don't just say goodbye. Instead, say a half-sentence that includes the person's name, something like: "It was really great to meet you, Ted." Or "Amy, thanks. I had a really good time." Be warm and friendly and speak with at least as much energy as when you said hello.

Although you may not (hmm, is Sillow Lowndes' name) time boundary-crossing advice to the letter, her Fast Book is for anyone who needs a boost to getting along well with others.

"How To Instantly Connect With Anyone: 96 All-New Little Tricks for Big Success in Relationships" is available at National Book Store.

Tuguegarao archdiocese marks centennial; Legazpi City hosts sacred heritage camp

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF Tuguegarao marked its centennial anniversary on April 24 with the opening of the Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan Jr. Pastoral Center. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, the Cagayan State University Chorale, Intercollegiate Singers and the Cagayan State University Chorale Instrumental Ensemble sang a "centennial prayer." Music director Fr. Fermin Aquino accompanied the evening song on the piano. Our Lady of Fire was embossed on the left side of the altar with devotees praying to her after the Mass.

There was praying all along with the "Chants to Dambana Dios."

The Archdiocese of Tuguegarao was canonically erected on April 10, 1910 by Pope Pius X, together with the dioceses of Tarlac, Nueva Segovia, Lingayen-Dagupan, Jaro, Cabanatuan and Lipa.

The centennial was filled with people from all walks of life who did not mind the time, just wanting to witness the coming of 100 years of "growing together in age, wisdom and grace."

Papal awardees Bambi and Cecilia Cagampang, Marcelo Lim and Carmencita Ong affirmed the active participation of the laity in evangelization.

Also, the San Jacinto Minor Seminary with Bishop Ricardo Baccay as Rector helps in the spiritual formation of the youth, while the St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in Aparri, headed by Fr. Joel Reyes, has produced 33 priests.

Archbishop Talamayan said the archdiocese had come this far through the help of God Almighty through the intercession of Our Lady of Fire, Cagayan's children's patroness; St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus; and St. Peter, to whom the archdiocese is dedicated.

"The assembly has become a 'communion of saints' because completing with the usual ambitions in running a Jubilee church, many can gain plenary indulgences. What devotion can elect; there you are 'saints,'" Talamayan said. "Welcome saints of the Catholic Church."

Sharing the faith

Coming all the way from Manila to celebrate with the Cagayanons were members of the Christ the King Parish Traditional Latin Mass group, who were invited and hosted by Duma of St. Alphonsus Cantate Group, Ateneo Tagalog, Fr. Flores, Veronica Guerrero, Elmas Chua and Eve Hernando.

They served the Latin Mass every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Christ the King Parish in Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Others who came were Gen. Hermogenes Ochoco Ruiz, Ding Arevalo, Sherry Garay, Hermilano Jimlo of the National Labor Relations Commission, Filipina Leonardo of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and lawyer Betty Pilares.

Eucharistic Healers of Mary

Archbishop Talamayan celebrated High Mass at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Eucharistic Healers of Mary Phone (02) 8922-0772/2004.

By the way, Gary Edgar Agbayani, a native of Carmalaugan, Cagayan, and president of the Devotees of Our Lady of Fire Foundation, is chairman of the party list Ilocos Democratic Independent Workers Association (Idiwa). He spearheaded the foundation into helping the preservation of the millennium house in Solana for the old clergy of Cagayan.

TUGUEGARAO Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan (center) with Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams and 20 bishops during the celebration of the centennial of the archdiocese at the St. Peter Cathedral

TUGUEGARAO Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan

St. Josemaría Escriva in Jaro

Raphael Lubaba, a devotee of St. Josemaría Escriva, e-mailed from Jaro, Iloilo, informing us that the feast of St. Josemaría Escriva was included in the Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral Liturgical Calendar.

At least 200 people attended the blessing of the feast and the Mass that followed. Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, assisted by Auxiliary Bishop Lucilo Quiambao, did the blessing.

Project to Goal through the intercession of St. Josemaría

Fortes, founder of Opus Dei, helps in finding a good job, according to Lolette, who sent me testimonies of Vanessa Gaconda from Brazil and a lady from London.

"Those who need prayer needs for St. Josemaría and Don Alvaro Portillo are invited to write me at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing."

Fr. Gene Rutal

Fr. Gene Rutal, parish priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in Dasmariñas, Cavite, will celebrate his 37th sacerdotal anniversary on May 7.

Father Gene was the first young man to be ordained priest in Capitolcom, Bambian. I met him in 1993 when he was parish priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Queen's Row, Sauyo, Cavite.

At that time, Masses were being said inside a warehouse converted into a chapel. With the help of then ODE chair Cesar Santos, land was donated for the building of a bigger church. Its cornerstone was formally blessed a up wanting the people to have a new church.

With the cooperation of the parishioners and the hard work of the priest who succeeded Fr. Gene, a beautiful church has been built.

God bless you, Fr. Gene, for being a good priest.

Heritage camp in Albay

The Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines Inc., under the OICP Commission on Cultural Heritage, is holding the Angat Kabataan Camp 2010 up in May 4 to different venues in Legazpi City, Albay.

In celebration of the Heritage Month 2010, the camp will host the theme: "Preserving the Gift of Faith."

The event will feature a seminar workshop by Fr. Zeferino Abrasaldo of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila and of the ordinary administration matrix of CBCP, as the 31 churches declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as historical Cultural Treasures in the Philippines, and a heritage tour in Albay Bicol.

At least 100 youth leaders, which include representatives from the Diocesan-based churches from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, are attending the event.

Gracing the event are Bishop Joel Baloso of the Diocese of Legazpi and National Commissioner for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Commissioner and Archaeologist Fr. Harold D. Mercado.

The Angat Kabataan Camp 2010 is made possible through the help of the NCCA, Filipino Heritage Festival Inc., Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Permanent Committee for Cultural Heritage, the Augustinians in the Philippines, Diocese of Legazpi, and the University of Santo Tomas Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group shot/per along with a photo of the couple and a short of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 2332 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

SEDO-RAMONES

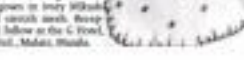
Albert S. Sedo and Carolyn I. Ramones exchanged vows April 17 at St. Andrew Parish, Buenos, Isabela. Reception was held at San Pedro-San Pedro, Buenos, Isabela.

VIZ-CONTE ANNIVERSARY

Clara and Gloria Vizconde celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary last April 27, with their children Lawrence Elijah, Julian Benedict and Hans Alexis Vizconde, family and friends, in the Montilla Compound in Pasay.

ALOVER GRADUATION

Lee Alover, daughter of Emi and Hari Alover, graduated cum laude from Assumption College, Bachelor of Communication, major in Advertising, last March 26.



BAGAM-CHAN

Cristine Chan, daughter of Charlie and Sweet Chan, will wed Gavin Earl Bacani, son of Ramon and Carmita Bacani, on May 15 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, UST Manila. Eric Pitarra designed the bride's gown in ivory silk duchesse silk and sweetheart neckline. Reception will follow at the G Hotel, Recto Blvd., Manila, Manila.

She wants to reconcile with her married ex-boyfriend

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

What do you think of this?

DEAR EMILE,

I have this affair with a married man for almost four years now. I know we love each other very much. Every time he's on vacation he stays with me for days before going home. We had a heated argument through text one time when I got really angry at him—cursed him and broke up with him instantly. He respected my decision but after a few minutes, that na days passed by I missed him and sent him text messages asking for forgiveness and saying I want him back. He has not as all responded. Part of me wants him back but a part of me also says stop it and start to move on.

I have tried to look at other men but I can't. I always look at his face whenever I look at other men. Others need an intellectual equal...someone they can talk to, banter with and make sense of what life's all about. Some are just pure and simple sex friends.

Cracks could have been appearing in his and pieces in this relationship over the course of four years. Since boyfriend has met his "I-can't-take-it-anymore" point with that last argument with you, its probably thought his life has not gotten any better with a third leg. Did you honestly think she loves you for for each other would be long-playing and never cool down? That's only in fairy tales, kid!

Unless you're one of those free-spirited souls who prefer to have open relationships and don't mind sharing lifestyle, get yourself a man you won't have to share with anyone. It's always more fun not to lie in a crumpled situation. You didn't lose him when this married boyfriend left you. Instead, you got your life back.

What do I think of you? I think you're one lucky woman! You've been given a chance to look out to freedom and start all over again.

Dexter 08

E-mail emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle

Share your beautiful wedding stories

WEDDING ESSENTIALS magazine is inviting readers to share their thoughts about what makes a beautiful wedding—especially the dream couples they themselves had, from the gown and food to the guests.

Contributions may be submitted until 11 midnight of May 8.

Starting May 10, the magazine will feature one wedding story per day on its blog (pressreleasewddings.com). Throughout the week, readers will get the chance to vote on their favorite wedding story via the online poll on the site.

The promo will run for 14 weeks and end July 18. There will be 14 Wedding of the Week winners.

The 14 Wedding of the Week winners will each receive P1,000 in cash, a P(5,)(8) bag worth P5,000 from sponsors and the chance to be featured in Inquirer Weddings' October issue. Also, each of the 13 wedding stories to be featured will have its own prize.

E-mail entries to lucille@inquirerweddings.com. For the complete mechanics, visit www.inquirerweddings.com.

Wyeth

Leading the way to a healthier world

TWO GREAT BENEFITS IN ONE GOLDEN PACKAGE

Progress Pre-School Gold is an advocate of promoting good nutrition through health check-ups. Now, we would like to go a step further by making health check-ups more accessible to you. This is made possible with our partnership with Healthway clinics.

See it as our way of giving you and your child the gift of healthcare. For every purchase of Progress Pre-School Gold (any 900g), you get a FREE Alagang Healthway Card. To claim it, simply present a valid receipt of your purchase dated May 1 to July 31, 2010 to any Healthway branch.

The Alagang Healthway Card comes to you and your child with the following health perks:

- Free unlimited family medicine consultation
- One (1) free pediatric consultation
- 15% discount on laboratory, diagnostic, dental and imaging services (except orthodontics and aesthetic services)
- 10% discount on vaccines
- Three (3) month validity from the time of redemption
- Primary cardholder will be the claimant, with one (1) allowable child dependent 4 years old and above

AVAIL OF THIS OFFER FROM MAY 1 to JULY 31, 2010. HURRY!

FREE HEALTHWAY CARD WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF PROGRESS PRE-SCHOOL GOLD

Wyeth's Progress Pre-School Gold continues to reinforce its commitment to child care by helping mothers provide their kids not only with superior nutrition but medical care as well. Sharing the same dedication to promoting health among mothers and their children, Wyeth's Progress Pre-School Gold recently joined hands with Healthway to provide families with improved access to superior maternal and child health care services.

From May 1 to July 31 2010, mothers who purchase Progress Pre-School Gold will get free Healthway cards that offer a wide range of services and benefits. With the card, moms can bring their children to any Healthway clinic and take advantage of free unlimited consultation from family medicine physicians, one (1) free pediatric consultation, 15% discount on laboratory, diagnostic, dental services and imaging services (except orthodontics and aesthetic services), and 10% discount on vaccines. With the combination of good nutrition and free health services, mothers get more value from each purchase of Progress Pre-School Gold. "Healthway believes in the high quality of Progress Pre-School Gold, a drink supplement specifically designed for pre-school children. Parents always want the best for their child, which is how they express their love. Healthway wishes to reward this act through Alagang Healthway card that packs in benefits uniquely designed for maternal and child health," says Isaves Alcala, Business Development Manager for Health cards.

"Wyeth staunchly advocates the need to support good nutrition with health check-ups to help moms best take care of their children," says Ricky Espinosa, Wyeth Group Product Manager. "Through this partnership, we will be able to provide parents and their kids with the gift of healthcare and ensure that children stay healthy as they grow up."

Kate Cruz, Healthway Marketing Manager, encapsulates partnership's significance in promoting maternal and child health. "The tie-up underscores our individual and common commitments to maternal and child health, which are imperative in the country's developmental context. Through this, we are also able to combine the strength of both companies."

Wyeth's remarkable reputation as a leading manufacturer of quality health products and Healthway's vigorous advocacy for preventive and healthy lifestyle."

In the Philippines, Wyeth is the leading provider of quality nutritional products for infants and young children, while Healthway has been offering quality medical services to Filipino families since 1997. Together, they bring more than 70 years of healthcare authority and experience to Filipino families through their joint project.

Bed and breakfast promo for mothers

DISCOVERY CENTRE SUITES TAGAYTAY offers Bed and Breakfast on Mother's Day, beginning with overnight stay in a Deluxe or Premier Suite. Moms can indulge in the suites' luxurious amenities, roommate-safe nature, and enjoy the pampering scenery.

"For the Love of Mom!" includes Discovery Country Suites' breakfast for two, romantic wine and cheese cocktails during cocktail hour, and bedside milk and cookies (mini bedtime). Discovery Country Suites will also give moms a bouquet of fresh flowers, an exclusive mom's care basket filled with traditional "pasalubong" from Tagaytay, and blankets for gifts from participating brands.

Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay's "For the Love of Mom!" promo is available May 7-8. The special room rates begin at P6,700+.

To celebrate mom's red-letter day, she can have a family lunch or dinner in one of the Philippines' Best Restaurants (according to the 2009 edition of The Miele Guide). Restaurant Verbena has prepared on a la carte menu. As an after-dinner sweet delight, mom will have her own special dessert sampler.

For inquiries and reservations, call Discovery Country Suites at (63463413-4567 or (632)719-6999 or e-mail dcs@discovery-suites.ph.

Special dinner buffet for moms

DISCOVERY SHORES BORACAY'S corporate chef David Bedu de Ayala will prepare gastronomic delights at Sandbar restaurant and bulgar Restaurant. On May 8, Sandbar Restaurant offers a dinner buffet for P1,100+ per person. Bring the entire family and for every party of six, one person gets a complimentary dessert.

Indigo Restaurant's culinary jobs one to Mom is a set menu consisting of chef's selection of Atlantic Bouche, Seared Tuna Loin with mango-ginger salsa and baby greens Classic Lobster Bisque and Seared Chilean Sea Bass with Braised Carbonara, Pan-fried Carrots, and deep red wine sauce. For dessert, Warm Chocolate Soufflé Cake. The special set menu is available May 7-9 for P1,000+ per person.

All moms get the chance to win a Champagne Bead Pendant from Jewelmore and other gifts from Cebu Investcode. The Lifestyle Network, and SMV Hypermarkets.

For inquiries and reservations, call (632)729-6000/ (632)288-4500 or the lifestyle sales and reservations of Zen at (632)719-6988.

Jewels for Mom on Mother's Day

THIS COMING MOTHER'S Day, gift Mom with any of Mikimoto's array of diamonds, pearls, gold bracelets, tennis bracelets, statement rings and earrings.

"Enjoy up to 10 percent discount at our Mother's Day event," says Michelle Dayrit-Sullivan, president of the renowned jewelry company.

For more information, visit Mikimoto stores at Jupiter St., Makati, Alfresco's 4, Mall of Asia, Alabang Town Center, Festivista, 309 The Block, The Podium and SM Aura. Call Ace at 890-823-4 or 896-43584, or visit www.mikimotophils.com.

S.S. WHITE gold double flexible row rings with 1.25-carat diamond bells

Budget-friendly beauty products for Mom

ELIANTO BEAUTY PRODUCTS WILL MAKE FOR great Mother's Day gifts. They include skin care, nail care and makeup products produced specifically for delicate Asian women. For Mother's Day Elianto offers budget-friendly gift packs. Also, a handy vanity pouch comes free with every P1,000 single-receipt purchase of Elianto products. Elianto products are available at SM Mall of Asia, The Block, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, The Landmark, SM, Robinsons, and other selected stores.

Celebrate Mother's Day with buffet lunch and dinner

TRADERS HOTEL MANILA CELEBRATES MOTHERS' Day with buffet lunch or dinner for P700 net per adult and P475 net per child aged 12 years and below.

Moms can also have a chance to win gift certificates from Shangri-La's Chi Spa, an overnight stay with breakfast for two at Traders Hotel Manila, buffet lunch for two and buffet dinner for two at Latitude.

For a relaxing Sunday afternoon, Latitude patrons can go to Bistro, the hotel's outdoor refreshing pool/recreation area.

Before going home, moms gets a complimentary photo capture of the family celebration.

Call (632)523-7811 local 2682.

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■ How to connect with people—and make them feel good about you /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Celebrate a fun-filled Mother's Day with the whole family at the
mommy & BABY FAIR 2010
May 8 and 9 • Eastwood Mall Open Park
Free Admission
EASTWOOD MALL
cradle

Soul archaeology—or: Who do you think you are?

It isn't one of my desires either
to grow old contentedly rocking
away in my soft comfortable chair.
I still need to rock the boat,
to dance up a storm, to venture
into a project I've never tried, to fly!

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

WE WERE IN Sing's bamboo house overlooking a mountain—Ading, Jaja, Awie, Ellen, Robert, Jenzo—all on one mattress, when 30-year-old Jenzo said to me, You're different from most old people I know. We talk as if we were the same age and you seem to genuinely enjoy our company. You must have had a difficult time trying to fit into your own generation. When did you realize what kind of person you were, or wanted to be, and how did you go about protecting it?

Time sank deep. I brought it home to consider.

How indeed? Not to a lightning flash, certainly. More like a process, a stage by stage revelation of one's own unique personality and how it was molded. By the hardly no more born into, our teachers, the person we married, our workplace, our social strata. The unfolding within goes on and on, whether we are conscious of it or not. Questions like mine's only bring it to the surface.

My mother was considered "modern" by the standards of her day; she was what one would call today a "Yuppie-esa," and a prisoner. She zipped wine and liked to smoke a smoke. Mama was creative and sculptural, a true artist. She had a talent for designing jewelry and her own dresses, cooking unusual dishes and pastries and she was smart in business. She was generous and kind.

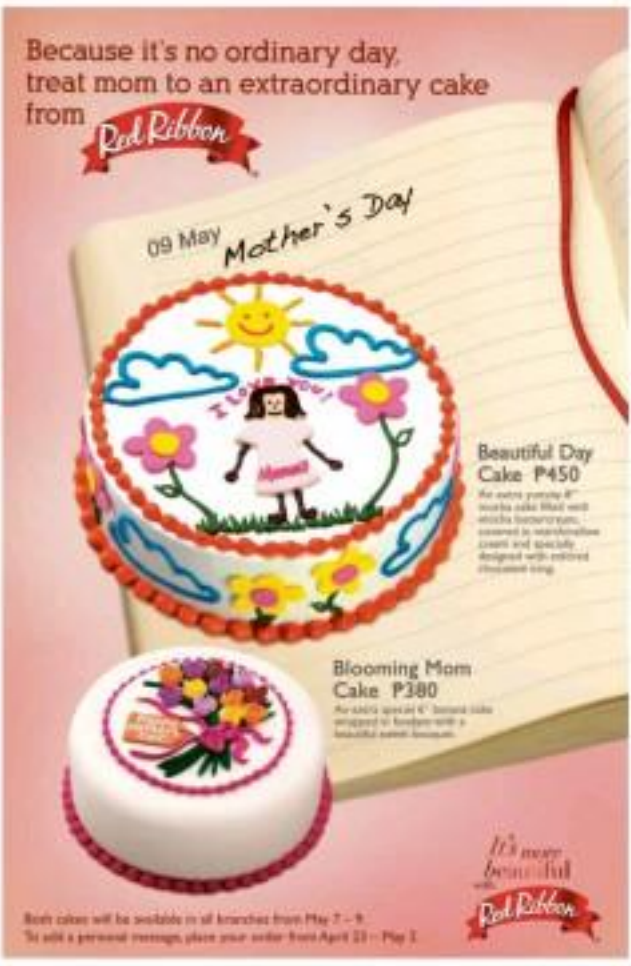
But she was also a lot of things I did not like: religious to the extreme, country-ridden and fearful. Many parents control their children with hard-core principles they believe in, no matter how unreasonable.

My mother was clueless about what she was so controlling about. Her actions were shaped by "what people might think" and the fearful advices of her just as confused friends.

It was my calm and astute father who brought sense or (for me) our nerve-wracked household.

I guess the person I have become is the end result of a very active imaging of a role model, not copying behavior I did not like, in my mother, or in others. I even remember consciously resolving, in my musings, to do the opposite of whatever my mother had instilled in me.

And for a long time I sincerely believed it worked. Because, with the help of a first husband I was able to raise a



Marilou Gilo-Abon, dynamic educator and practical visionary

The first woman president of the Nueva Vizcaya State University had just started her second term when illness struck her down. The woman of science who was also an advocate of the arts passed away on her birthday, April 23, also Shakespeare's and Cervantes' death anniversary

By Oscar V. Campomanes
Contributor

THEY DO NOT make university presidents and administrators like the late Marilou S. Gilo-Abon (1955-2010) anymore, if they ever did.

Many, if not most, educational administrators are content to emphasize, and remain on the level of the responsibilities associated with the job upon appointment to such positions of institutional leadership. Not Abon.

She was, in her illustrious life and productive academic career, severely and sadly cut short by cancer, a genuine renaissance woman, but with a decisive wrinkle. She was, without it being a power contradiction, both impractical and practical.

As the eminent art critic and historian Dory Bobier-Javier, using the word in retrospect to the originality of avant-garde 19th-century Ilocano poet Modalla, ligimtud in Ingglik means "impractical visionary" and is therefore a redundancy.

"Was there ever a practical visionary?" Javier asks.

Abon, whom Javier met known for forty long but I now feel I have known and been dreaming about for a lifetime, was one such practical visionary.

Dr. Abon with Edith Tiempo, National Artist for Literature, during the latter's homecoming and tribute to her by the Nueva Vizcaya State University and the National Convention for the Culture and the Arts in 2009

Like all visionaries, she was or would be seen by cautious, conservative or spiteful contemporaries and peers as presuming an essentially impractical side to her persona. Is it their inadvertent confirmation to enlighten eminent, if so, to count her among the few real hybrids: school-doctor minds.

Yet although a creditable dreamer, she moved about the world of action with effective and grace. She shined in possible dreams and visions as an academician under the selfless pressures of practice, against all opposition, despotism, even hostility from entrenched interests.

I have watched many educational administrators look up and almost echo productivity, and in the course, sadly lose deliberate bureaucratic but none or precious few could come close to approximating the sheer inventions and irreplaceable style of Abon's academic leadership.

At the time of her untimely death on April 23, incidentally her 55th birthday, she was completing the first year of her second term as president of Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), a five-campus state university system in Nueva Vizcaya in the capital town of Bayombong and the nearby large and vegetable-trading municipality of Bambang.

Granted a charter as a state university through legislation sponsored by Rep. Carlos Padilla in 2004, NVSU was the result of a merger between the older Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology of Bayombong (established 1916) and the younger Nueva Vizcaya School of Arts and Trades, later Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic (founded 1968), in Bambang.

Achievements

Specialized, like most regional higher education institutions (HEIs), in the agricultural and practical sciences (technology and trades), NVSU expanded phenomenally under Abon's tenured and dynamic leadership to first charter and female presidency beginning in 2005, to include an extension campus in Hong Kong (2008) and a spherical variety of faculty student exchange programs with more universities and institutions in China and Japan.

Degree programs in agriculture, hospitality management, tourism, veterinary medicine, and environmental sciences among a host of others which she desired previous to the needs of the province, were set up one after the other during her first term (2005-2009) alone, in addition to the consolidation and upgrading by NVSU's functional synergies in forestry, the agricultural sciences, and education.

Herself an accomplished research scholar in social science and development studies, Abon rose to the establishment and reinforcement of continuing research and extension programs at various at NVSU, sensitive to the peculiar natural and cultural conditions of Nueva Vizcaya as a rice/vegetable and citrus-growing province, and as home to a dazzling array of ethnolinguistic groups like native Ibaloi, indigenous Tagalogs, and some 19 indigenous communities like the Ifugao, Kalanguya, Ibaloi and Gaddang.

Examples include a Center for Environmental Resource Management and Sustainable Development, a citrus center, and an innovative program in fisheries.

A Bambang Studies Center, for a greater textual, lived and regional studies that has been the most timely interdisciplinary research development in the Philippine academy since the 1980s, was on the drawing boards by the end of her first term and the beginning of her abortive second.

Her most evident interpersonal investment, she reverently received citations from the Council of Higher Education for outstanding research and extension, and in an exemplary case of excellent institutional governance, from the Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit for its exemplary scrupulous accounting office and practices.

Unlike literature program

More astonishingly, NVSU was close to constituting an unlikely All Literatures program in late 2009, the resultant massive strike which I and a number of colleagues from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters joined as the more general one, held in the beginning of January and narrowly gauged NVSU, in the field of culture and arts development.

After all, it organized, in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Ateneo Council of the University of the Philippines, a Ying Jiapagay to Ermad Pamintuan, Abigail ng Sinilang na Pambansa" and Literary studies conference in August 2009 in honor the liberal Ilocos Edith Tiempo, most famous daughter of the province and the Gaddang people.

In the August 2009 conference, Abon asked me and University of Santo Tomas professors Ma-Rhonda Lopez, Ralph Galan, Jack Wigley, and hopefully Bel and Books collection editor Gleo Zubieta to deliver papers on the aesthetics and politics of Tiempo's novels to a packed crowd of faculty and students from its two campuses and other Nueva Vizcaya colleges.

In fact, as its event and spectacular 5th Charter anniversary celebration on June 1 and the massive group of UST professors, with the addition of dancers and poet Norman Cuevarra, attended and participated in, and which an already visibly ill Abon gamely and bravely presided over, a cultural performance troupe from Hanan Agricultural University (part of WVSU's sister institutions) was in town to stage performances of classical and modern Chinese/Tibetan dance and to deliver dance lessons to interested participants.

Art is sciences?

The answer or explanation is not difficult to find.

Featured in a December 2009 number of Pearson's Journal, in which Abon is in fact one of the Pioneers in Service to Education series, Abon expounded her belief, as then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Central Luzon State University, one of several key positions she occupied at that university before accepting the NVSU presidency, that "there is art in the sciences and science in the arts."

One might investigate this as a modern restatement of the ancient Greek notion of poiesis, in which, as the Western's Journal interviewer puts it, Abon "saw art and science are fused, and not poles apart, much like being two sides of the same coin."

Marilou itself, the "Science City" where Central Luzon State University (CLSU) is located and where eventually she joined Bienvenido Lumbera, Mayor Jovito Monsod, a biologist PhD and former CLSU Arts and Literature dean, ideas centered as a very close associate and friend, has become an unusual center for science and arts development in the Philippines among whose most striking events is to and memory were the series of public-access conference presentations by world-renowned theoretical physicist Cecile Licad.

Tulips and beauty

In the tributes and encomiums given organized by the CLSU College of Arts and Sciences and held on April 27, an honor three close friend and colleagues Dr. Carmencita Ramos testified that upon Abon's arrival on the CLSU campus at age 23 to begin her academic career, "she already mentioned that distinctive sense of beauty and style that would be famous and which she would characteristically exhibit all her life."

It was a self-fashioning artistry, for Ramos, classified Abon not to be an aesthete, somebody who made art a cage of life and "beauty a testament of becoming" [translated from the Tagalog].

In his poignant and moving response to the CLSU testimonials, Abon's son, Ripo Carlos, alumnus of UST's distinguished architecture program and a graduate of Xavier University, also raised him and his sister Kaye (a recent UST literature graduate) with an eye to beauty and the development of artistic sensibility.

Among the afternoon ceremonies, while I was perusing up," Ripo recounts, "she came told me that for flowers, she favored the tulip. I never asked and she never explained why."

Reflecting upon his mother's life, Ripo said "it can now only be given to understand why this was so, why she loved this flower. Tulips are fragile but, precisely for that, are such things of beauty."

Likening his mother and the beauty of her life to tulips, Ripo noted how the tulip starts out as a tubular blossom "but can be seen at its most beautiful state it spreads its petals, and begins to wilt."

One lesson does this for many of others to take from his mother's monumental life and early death is that "death is what makes life meaningful, and that things are beautiful exactly because they never last."

The Philippine's Journal feature on Abon observes that out of the most striking characteristics that one is likely to impress anybody about her, on meeting her for the first time, is "her very soft words." I said Ripo after the tribute how much of his mother's voice he has and his sister's. Ripo has he did not need to remind me how he prefaced the talk anecdote with the disclaimer that "My metaphysical predilections are as nothing, compared to my mother's speech."

I do not know of any scholarly who spoke in this literary and beautiful manner, or at least it is not everyday that one comes across somebody like that who does.

But then again, why wonder when it was somebody like Abon who raised him, and sought to convince others in the regional and science academics, and perhaps people like me now in the literary and humanities academy, that "there is art in science, and science in art"?

"Think of me as a dream," Primo Rafiki once wrote (and it is my favorite artist David Modaliza's favorite quote). As an academic, I have always dreamed about and wished for an institutional supreme and leader like Abon to be at the helm of my educational institution.

Like a dream she had come to life, an unseen hero briefly in my own waking world, and to the many worlds she had touched and graced with her benevolent gifts. But like a beautiful dream, no matter how deep the sense of loss, she must come to pass, and be allowed to fade away to heavenly.

Oscar V. Campomanes of Writers & Ideals University and the UST Graduate School is a native of Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

DR. ABON during her investiture

EQ Dry makes learning fun for your baby

Bringing your baby to learning centre has to start from the moment you choose your preferred baby milk. Some babies are choosy on what milk they want to drink. Some babies can make or break parents' decision on which milk to buy. Some babies have to develop special taste before accepting milk. Some babies are choosy about what formula to use or switch milk brand. Some babies are choosy on the taste of milk. Some babies are choosy on the smell of milk. Some babies are choosy on the texture of milk. Some babies are choosy on the colour of milk. Some babies are choosy on the packaging of milk. Some babies are choosy on the price of milk. Some babies are choosy on the availability of milk. Some babies are choosy on the brand of milk. Some babies are choosy on the flavour of milk. Some babies are choosy on the aroma of milk. Some babies are choosy on the consistency of milk. Some babies are choosy on the temperature of milk. Some babies are choosy on the time of day they drink milk. 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DR. ABON with some university officials and partners in Hong Kong. Recently, NVSU opened its campus in Hong Kong through an agreement with Fullright Education Group.

Wolfgang concert at White Space on May 15

ROCK BAND WOLFGANG PRESENTS "Plug & Play," the country's first-ever full-concert to be streamed live on the internet on May 15, 9 p.m., at White Space, 73-74 Panay Tano Extension, Makati. Tickets are available at Ticket-World outlets at National Bookstore outlets and Robinson's Department Stores. *Wolfgang* is composed of Basti Artadi (vocals), Manuel Legarda on guitar, Ramon Legaspi on bass and Francis Aquino on drums. Wolfgang "Plug & Play" is presented by Mo Twister and the band's own indie label, Emmanuelle Music. Media partners are Channel V Philippines, Mo 1.01, UP, 105.5 and Jam 88.3. Call 1.cashNow.ph at 9999999.

WOLFGANG'S "Plug & Play" gig is the country's first-ever full concert to be streamed live on the internet.

Mother's Day activities at the mall

Robinsons Malls and Fold features and activities to celebrate Mother's Day. Robinsons-savvy mothers indulged their hands full with the Robinsons Malls holds a series of Business Ideas Workshops. Robinsons Go, Robinsons Mall, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Los Baños and Dasmariñas and Angeles that will keep them occupied and creative. This interactive activity will showcase everyone-to-make products they can enhance such as scented candles, organic bath soaps, chocolate-making, Accessories, gift boxes and tote bags. For the working fashionista and on-the-go moms, it's a must to check out the Fashion Styling Workshop (Robinsons Nova Market) to update one's look and the Makeup Clinic (Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga, Robinsons Place Lipa, Iloilo and Robinsons Place) to highlight mom's best assets. Busy homemakers will get a lot of pointers from the Home Decorating and Improvement Talk (Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga and Robinsons Bino) where one will be taught how to organize and sexually home their space and stylish way. Robinsons Malls will also teach moms how to make Simple Desserts (Robinsons California, Robinsons Place Manila, Metro East, Los Baños, Iloilo, Dasmariñas, Sta. Rosa, Angeles, Lipa, Starmills Pampanga, Cebu). A set of Basic Massage Techniques (Robinsons Nova Market) will also help them pamper/relax/treat "visionary overdue" for back aches, stiff necks and muscle and joint pains. Dining and energetic moms should join the Bolo Dancing by Shakalla (Robinsons Place Dasmariñas) for that instant shape-up. Pampering treatments like facial scrubs, facial massages, foot styling to foot softness and rapid massage will also be provided. Moms will also be an beauty talks where everyone can ask pro-ins.

Summer Fling promo

Discovery Shores' Summer Fling package at Boracay Newcoast Resort, Boracay Island, Aklan, is available from April 30 to May 31, 2015. The package includes round-trip airfare via Cebu Pacific Air from Manila to Caticlan and back, private boat transfers from Caticlan Airport, daily complimentary breakfast at the resort's restaurant, Sunset Grill, and one free island hopping tour. Rates start at P12,888 net per person sharing in a Deluxe Room. Visit www.discoveryprimehotels.com/boracay/summer-fling-promo.

What's Up

Sands Restaurant, complimentary shuttle service along the long beach, and all the first-class amenities and facilities that spell sheer indulgence. Scheduled until June 15, including April 30-May 3. Call (02)8888, 1106002 to 10, (02)8888, 1106001, visit www.discoveryshoresboracay.com or www.dfr.com/discoveryshores.

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Soul archaeology—or: Who do you think you are?

From page F1

well-motivated, secure and happy family.

I did so much discarding, however, that I rejected many good things that I could have learned from her—like my mother's cooking and her business sense. And the suffering I endured from her I just took for granted and was never grateful for, which is not good at all.

Negative imaging I witnessed elsewhere also challenged the conditioned notion that old age automatically translates into wisdom. ("Obey your elders, they always know best.")

During my activist years, a friend suggested that we listen to an "amazing" woman of 90 who was giving a talk. She was indeed spry and very lucid. She talked volubly for one half hour without stopping. But she talked drivel. Not a single insight, not even in her field of expertise—marriage, homekeeping, bringing up children, growing old.

Ditto. I confirmed what I had long suspected. If you don't work at it you could be mindless in the end. I know then that I had to nail a wisdom.

Our best traits which look to our advantage and disadvantage. Since my early retired had depended so much on being counter-culture and different, it was easy to meditate new projects. No fear there. But to conform...ah-ooy!

I questioned everything, unmemorable or not—miles of the railroad, of writing of art, of curriculum that recognized only the left brain, miles of ballroom dancing, proper decorum, religion, definitions of right and wrong. It was a bumpy ride.

I did a lot of original work which was all successful but much as much time and effort. I sometimes wondered why I always wanted to reinvent the wheel.

So...Arts, it was hard to be me. Especially when my husband was in corporate life. We had a two-life because he was in a good position, so please, please don't rock the boat. Everything you do will reflect on your husband. Wear the same black dress, know how to stroll past cocktail, don't be evasive, don't express your views.

When the executive bubbles get regretful, the wives were left to themselves. I loved deep and talk but the executive wives were much younger and out from their world. They were always were looking, eleven-seventies and gossipy. The guys just wanted to drink themselves under the table.

It was when our husbands had retired and some of them had died, that I sensed the wives. I missed their pride and their protection. I wanted to connect with them again but there hadn't been much between us and so I lost them. I had one yr learned how to put value to relationships that could have been good after all.

What else did I see in old people that I didn't want to copy? They don't know how to laugh and to say Maciel. I always relate people who remind me to listen. And "right listening" according to Shantel, is "paying attention quietly to both the words and feelings of another without judgement or interruption." It is time to practice while still enable.

Another thing that I didn't fancy was being frozen while still alive. Know our brain dies area works look, from the established outsiders and the over-travelled memory lane. Old people often get stuck in recounting the same past tenses which are not archeological insights. When asked to explore a thought-provoking, the old person's likely answer is, It's too tiring to think about! Why don't we just relax and talk about last night.

And nothing to do nothing goes. It isn't one of my dreams either to grow old contentedly rocking away in my soft comfortable chair. I still need to rock the boat, to dance up a storm, to venture into a project I've never tried, to fly! The best old people I have known were creative in their dying day. Wrote Thoreau, "Those are as old as those who have outlived their enthusiasm." Bodies can no longer grow in health after a certain age. Only the mind can still expand and deepen and grow forever.

So that is my examination of conscience, my answer to your question, Jacqui.

But why is it so important to know yourself? Because it is the key to conviviousness—to understanding how to positive or negative ways, we affect others. To understand our own motives, to know what triggers our perceptions and emotions, moments and dragons, our strengths and potentials.

And—do we like ourselves? Do we want to improve ourselves or are we contented with the way we are? Is it true that our friends know us better than we do ourselves? Some readers might want to try out archaeology.

The search requires a lot of humility, honesty and courage. But the illumination will blow your mind! Good luck.

Be sweet and scent-sible with Charmee

Make a happy, stylish home

IN THIS ISSUE

Take a peek into Willie Revillame's Balinese-inspired weekend home in Tagaytay

Grab a copy at your favorite newsstands!
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WE INTERNATIONAL Philippines volunteer service helps to build better lives for the future.

Medical mission to Smokey Mountain

CHILD posing for the camera

DR. MARTIN Camara checks the muscular and skeletal alignment of a Smokey Mountain child.

WE INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, a non-governmental organization, recently organized a medical mission to Smokey Mountain.

Dr. Bong Rivera of the Makati Medical Center pediatric department led the medical team, which included dermatologists, internal medicine specialists, pediatricians and nurses. Intensive healthcare systems brought in rehab nurses and physical therapists.

The medical teams assessed the health concerns of the children of the area. Some 300 elementary and high school youths were evaluated for scoliosis, postural problems, flexibility testing and were given chiropractic adjustments by licensed, led by its director Martin Camara, a chiropractic specialist.

"As early as 7 years old, these kids are scavenging trash to help their families survive in the worst of conditions," said Camara.

"I will never forget the sight of kids and adults rummaging like ants through a mountain of trash while noses cover smoking doors inches from their bodies. A typical day for high school students is to scrounge trash for eight hours, aside from school. You can see the determination it takes for one to get an education, coming from that background. When they suffer from back pain or other injuries, they lose the ability to provide food for themselves and their families."

Camara observed that many children had poor flexibility and imbalances in the skeletal and muscular structures.

The pediatric mission, dubbed We Care, was held in partnership with Intercare Healthcare Systems, Makati Medical Center Foundation, Smeg Stone and healthcare philanthropist Chris Ebelt.

Plans are afoot to hold a regular outreach clinic in Smokey Mountain that would include a part-time doctor, full-time nurse and a well-stocked dispensary.

"We Care is also looking at a postcard-exhibit-pictorial-fotobby sarsfakop similar to the 'Straighten up America' campaign for preventative programs," said Camara.

For directions and volunteer service, visit http://www.weinternational.org.ph or call Intercare at 889 3378.

WE INTERNATIONAL'S director of development Geni Portacio (to up) talk to chiropractor Martin Camara for a medical mission to Smokey Mountain.

Celebrate summer time with secure

SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE BRILLIANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE VISUAL ARTS

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May 4 - September 12

Art Park
May 4 Onwards

Ayala · Globe

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Soul archaeology—or: Who do you think you are? /F1

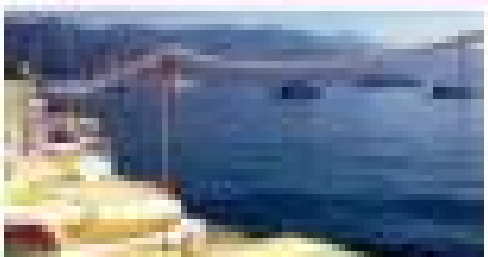
Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

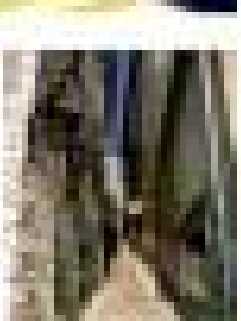
MICE (view at right)

Haughty but happy at the Cote d'Azur

The South of France is quite possibly the most expensive piece of real estate in the world, where real luxury doesn't scream, it whispers

STORY ON PAGE G2





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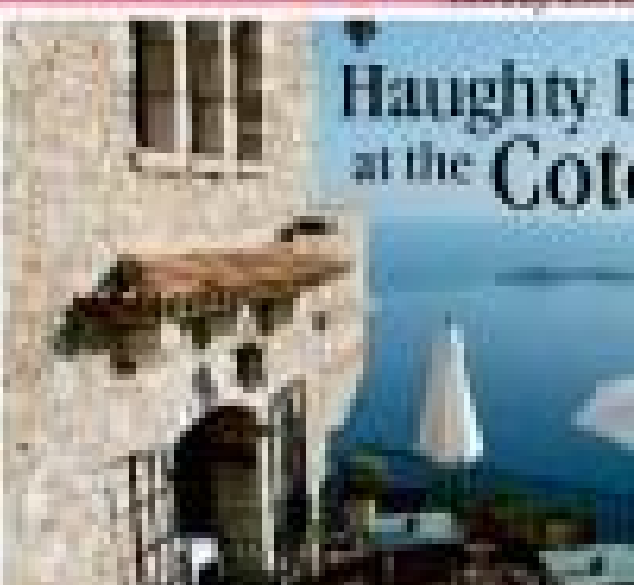
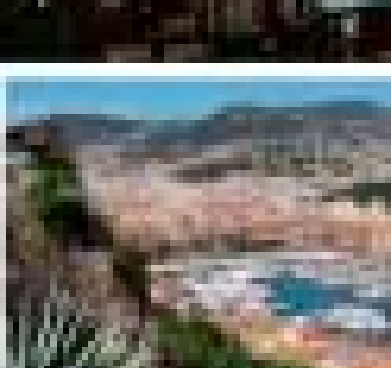
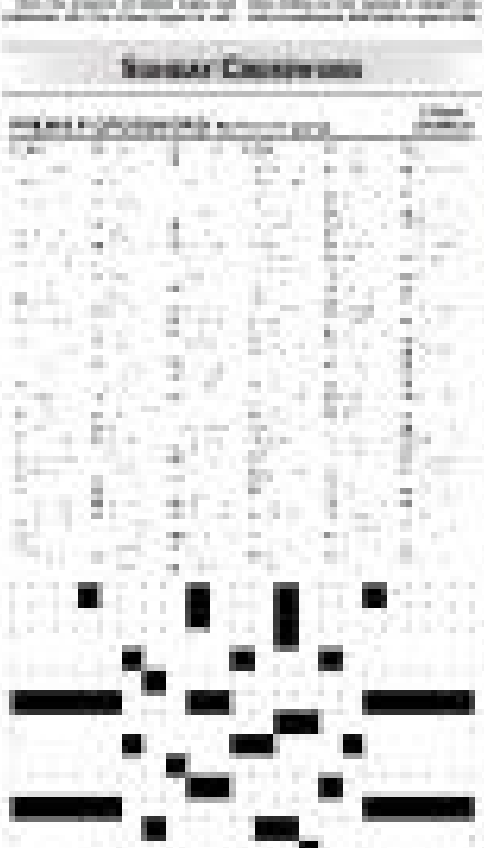
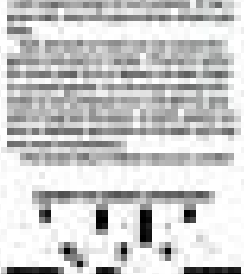




Family getaway in Ta

Summer Crossword





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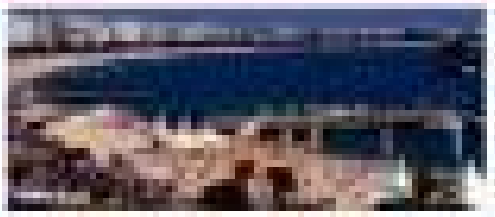
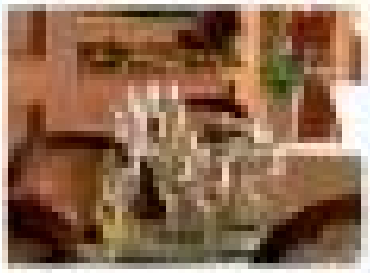
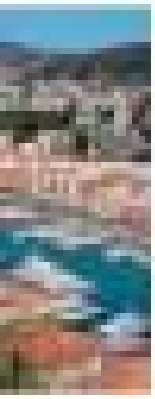




Mother's Day



gaytay

PSA Cars co-sponsors the new Elark International Speedway

The beauty of minerals

It is said that beauty comes from the earth, and the new mineral- based cosmetics catapults its rich natural resources.

Though the mineral make-up revolution started in the mid 1970s, it has even come more popular today as we go back to the basics and find more natural beauty solutions.

Mineral make-up is made with finely ground minerals from the earth, with zinc oxide and titanium oxide as its most common ingredients. Its all natural formula eliminates irritants that can be found in basic beauty products - think fragrances, oils, synthetic dyes, preservatives, and other chemicals - making it purer and more gentle to the skin. Most mineral cosmetics come in the form of loose powder foundations and blushes, and these are applied to the skin with natural brushes.

Mineral Make-Up 101

- Titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, the natural ingredients from which mineral make-ups made has anti-inflammatory properties, which make it safe to all skin types, including the most sensitive skin. It does not clog pores, and prevents acne-like eye, allergies, and dryness.
- Mineral make-up also protects one's skin from the sun's harsh rays, which can cause premature aging. The secret? Again, its high content of titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, which are two ingredients commonly found in sunscreens.
- You'll get that youthful glow with mineral make-up's light formula. Traditional make-up can cake and enhance fine lines and wrinkles, while mineral make-up is almost invisible, and makes skin healthy and translucent.
- The ingredients used in mineral make-up are pulverized in microscopic sizes, providing long lasting complete coverage, yet feels natural, light, and breathable. This is so much unlike traditional make-up, which can cover your face with a heavy mask.
- Mineral make-ups natural qualities are amazing! Blemishes do not grow on it, nor does it need preservatives since it does not contain moisture. This makes it ideal for home-bound climate like ours, and better still, your make-up will stay longer as you perspire.

Mineral Make-up at Beauty by SM

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Finally—relaxation and quiet in Boracay

In luxury and style yet, at the exclusive, newly opened Asya Premier Suites

HEAVEN Deserted white sand beach fronting Asya Premier offers peace and quiet at any time of day.

By Alec T. Vergara

PEOPLE PINING FOR THE quaint and soothing Boracay of yore, as well as those with no idea how quiet and secluded life once was in the world famous island, now have the option to experience it—in luxury and style yet—at Asya Premier Suites.

Owned by businessman Chey Cojuangco and managed by the same group behind the **oldest and most affordable Asya Boracay**, Asya Premier is the latest high-end property to open and provide much-needed R and R to Filipinos and foreigners alike.

"We've had an interesting mix of local and foreign guests since we opened a few months ago. The property has been attracting a fair share of Europeans, particularly French, British and Austrian, who value their privacy," said Ike Mendiola, one of the company's resort managers.

During our recent two-night stay, for instance, Asya Premier also featured couples from Korea and Japan. A British couple also moved to the place after the hotel they were staying in fell short of their expectations. Most European guests make the room out of their long-haul flights to the Philippines by spending more and staying longer.

Streamlined architecture

Asya Premier's idyllic and streamlined architecture, which includes a flight of stairs that blends with the sands' color, is hard to miss as one strolls by the beach. In fact, a number of its guests have been walk-ins in search of better amenities and more privacy not offered in smaller, less expensive properties.

"We're also becoming known as an ideal venue for weddings," Mendiola added. "We welcome the couple and their guests to book the entire resort for such occasions."

The couple can choose from several packages. Apart from a breathtaking wedding (an ideal option, since not too many people venture in front of Asya Premier), they can hold their reception indoors at Palay restaurant or by the poolside, adjacent to Adlaw open-air bar on the second level.

Since the place is elevated, sprawling and built not like a typical multi-level hotel, you would hardly bump into other guests. Structures are built far apart from each other to provide room for a series of pools, pocket gardens and open spaces.

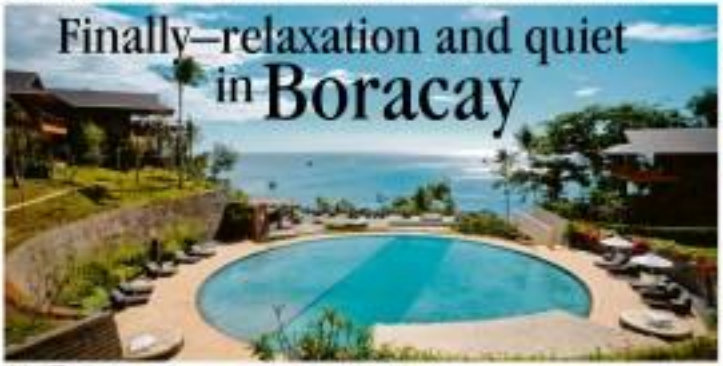
Even the property's huge, round swimming pool in the center of a circular coral-

PAGE 2 OF 3

ASIA Premier's receiving area, a few meters away by golf cart from the hotel's private cove

VILLAS are far apart from each other to ensure privacy

Finally—relaxation and quiet in Boracay



ANAL-LINED pools flank courtyard

PHOTOS BY ANDREW SOLANA

FILIPINO-INSPIRED furniture adorned the restaurant

From page B1

said, like its beachfront, is rarely deserted most hours of the day.

"Asya Premier is also about providing our guests with options," said Ruby Lopa, also a resort manager. "No matter what they do or where they choose to go, they will always have a quiet and luxurious place to return to at the end of the day."

Located in Barangay Manoc-Manoc (or more popularly known as Station 3), the 12-hectare property (only two hectares have been developed so far) offers guests 19 Filipino-inspired seafront villas designed by architect Ed Tadeniza, a partner of Locsin architect and firm. Antonio Garcia designed the minimalist landscape.

Premier suites

Each two-story villa houses a pair of suites (one on the ground floor and one on the second floor) measuring 130 sq m each. Eight villas have premier suites, while the remaining two villas feature four top-of-the-line presidential suites with their own wading pools.

Each suite comes with a lanai, which provides guests with a sweeping view of the crystal-blue pool. Floor-to-ceiling sheer blinds during the day (thus keeping the pool's water pleasantly warm at night), white wood beads and magnificent Boracay sunsets. In keeping with the Filipino theme, interior designer Ranby Cuna played around with a woven design motif, evident in the cushioned chairs, pillows and headboard occupy-space divider found in each suite.

Except for bursts of orange, each suite's color scheme is decidedly neutral, earthy and relaxing. The unbelievably huge bathroom (suites on the second floor come with an outdoor pocket garden) is stocked with a full line of amenities and toiletries from Elizabeth.

Air-conditioned suites provide guests free access to 24-hour cable TV and WiFi. They're also entitled to free use of the gym and the private cove behind the property that doubles as a dock for Asya Premier's complimentary boats, which ferry guests from Caticlan (where the airport is located) to the property and vice versa.

"We really wanted our place to reflect a modern Filipino ambiance," said Cuipang-co. "Why would guests, who traveled all the way to Boracay, want to stay in a place with Thai and Balinese touches? Some overly-lavish (literally) Thai Suites among them, guests are probably better off flying to Thailand to find instead."

Dana, who also thought of naming the Asian restaurant Dining placed with such elements as heated slabs of paliay bato (cooked rice) and native mortars and pestles as decor. He also insisted to contrast between modern and traditional, evident in the restaurant's interiors.

Managed by New York and London-trained Chef Dilwo Isildra (younger brother of singer-actress Agot Isidro), the resort's menu serves quite a range of dishes, from Filipino staples such as sinigang, bistek Tagalog and adobo to the chef's own fusion dishes.

"Our prices are quite reasonable because we want to give our guests more reasons to dine and stay with us longer," said Mores-inda. "We also welcome walk-in diners staying at other hotels."

Pasta dishes

Since Asya Premier caters to many foreigners, Isidro said his team also offer Fish and Chips with Tartar Sauce, Asya Prime Burger with American Cheese and an ever-changing range of pasta dishes and fresh, oven-baked pizza, including Filipino Chicken Adobo Flakes with Feta Cheese and Boracay Cheese.

"A British couple once dined here and found the fish and chips to their liking," said Isidro. "They must have found it tasty authentic."

Well, perhaps almost. Pat Espinosa (see area, below doesn't serve his fish and chips in rolled-up newspapers the way they do it in London. He has also been getting positive feedback for his adobo Fried "Bistek" Salmon Bandi and refreshing Asian Chicken Salad with Sesame Vinaigrette.

Diners can choose on top of a hearty meal with sweet offerings found in Ruby's dessert menu. Isidro, a former pastry chef, also bakes his own breads and cakes.

Desserts here include Butter Sans Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream, Warm Chocolate Brownie a la Mode and Classic Apple Pie with Warm Caramel Sauce. And before the long, hot summer dinner in a chair, guests can have their fill of buffet-style Asha-Asia served by the friendliest crew attendants.

"What we have right now belongs to the property's first phase," said Cuipangco. "We plan to construct a private village behind the existing area composed of six to seven private villas, which we intend to lease out."

Like those in Phase 1, villas in Phase 2 will offer guests utmost comfort and privacy in keeping with their owner's notion of giving everyone the chance to experience bursts of life that are fun (bouncing to Boracay).

Call (+632) 8820138, (+632) 8955270, visit www.asyapremier-boracay.com, e-mail asya.info@gmail.com

SECOND-FLOOR villas with swinging seat chairs and beach views

MIX OF OLD and traditional elements make for interesting contrast at Paliay restaurant

PALAY Restaurant's decor inspired by life in the farm

SUITE'S living room with day bed and picture window

HUGE bathroom with outdoor pocket garden

ADOBO and Boracay Chorizo pizza and Fresh Salmon Bandi

ASYA Prime Burger with American Cheese and Fish and Chips

A TYPICAL suite with Filipino touches anchored on knitted motif

AWARDED: bathroom amenities offer pure luxury

Style file

From eye-popping flats, comfy loafers, trendy handbags, backpacks and luggage—take your pick from the spectrum of style and colorful choices at Robinsons Department Store that reflect your personality.

Express your mood and state of mind with fabulous shoes and bags that suit your every fancy! Robinsons Department Store has a month-long fair from May 1 to 31, 2010 that offers new collection of shoes and bags for women, men, and children.

Join the crowd of destiny and find the right pair of shoes and bags that speak a lot about who you are. Participating brands include Mario D'Boro, Liberti shoes, Gibi, Zanea, Pankberry, Secciona, Michaela, Liberti bags, World Balance, Converse, Skechers, Sky Travel, Mandarin, Bench Knight, Payless, Stamp and Naomi.

For him

Checkered suitcase by Mandarin, P399.75; white loafers by Mario D'Boro, P999.75

City sleek

A checkered bag gives a modern take on your suit ease. Take on town to the next level with a comfy pair of loafers.

Metal luggage by Pankat, P1,499.75; rubber shoes by World Balance, P1,250.00

Preppy jet-setter

Upgrade your usual travel style with a hip metal luggage in mint green color and comfortable shoes.

Backpack in orange by Bench Knight, P1,290.00; brown slip-ons by Skechers, P1,890.00

World traveler

Jet set around the globe with a multi-functional backpack and practical slip-ons. These travel buddies are good enough for the city or trekking in the woods.

Luggage by Pankat, P1,199.75; shoes by Skechers, P3,890.00

Classic and cool

Increase your style quotient and make fine the motion of boring with a sleek twist in your luggage and shoes that is both functional yet stylish.

For her

Purple structured bag with metallic chains and leather straps by Michaela, P1,350.00

Pink patent flats by Liberti, P599.75

Handbag by Secciona, P1,199.75; black leather shoes by Gibi, P1,399.75

Smart and sassy

Put your best foot forward with classic black flats and multi-functional bags with zips, when carries your every day things. You'll sure have an A-grade in style.

City chic

Simple and smart designs for the lady who is always on the move; switch-to-classic structured bag and trusty pair of flats that never go out of style.

Animal print clutch by Liberti, P599.75; wrappy heels by Mario D' Boro, P999.75

Urban safari lady

Be wild and fierce with animal printed clutch and nature-inspired heels to survive the city jungle.

Little miss sunshine

Fun and functional pieces with pretty colorful graphics are wonderful add-ons to one's shopping ensembles.

Pink bag by Cow, P799.75; purple suede flats with white lining by Pankberry, P399.75

Blue bag by Liberti, P599.75; orange span-ner flats by Zanea, P999.75

Modish sophisticate

Indulge your taste for urban retro style with these electric-colored beauties.

Redhead Rules at SM

Redhead, SM's exclusive in-house label is all about edgy chic and a touch of neo-prep. Launched four years ago, this young, trendy and eclectic line has an assortment of tops, bottoms, and dresses for the collegiate fashion elite.

With recent partnership with Meg Magazine's Meg Face Search has given the label a new face, and it's a triple treat. Alex, Tanny, and R-La, join the new redhead girls, exemplifying the brand's young, trends, and vibrant spirit.

Like them, you can stand out from the colleguate crowd in redhead's new collection of floral printed mini dresses and skirts, as well as classic jackets and cardigans for a modern preppy look.

As you shop for your own redhead style, you can enjoy up to 50% off selected items on the Girls Teens' Wear Department until May 14.

Fashion
Available at the SM Department Store

Alex is in fuhsioon with this pretty redhead floral dress and redhead black cardigan

Perpet-uating Tanny in a redhead floral dress worn with a redhead soft striped blazer

MUST HAVE. MUST SHOP.

UP TO 50% OFF
on selected items / MAY 1-14, 2010

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1636 Series of 2010.

Exclusively at the GIRLS TEENS' WEAR Department

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Flower Power redhead cap sleeved floral dress

Luau Floral redhead strapless floral dress on R-la

Sassy wears a floral mini-skirt worn with a black sleeve top, all from redhead

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Haughty but happy at the Cote d'Azur /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

OPEN-AIR dining deck

COSTA Romantica guests soak in the sun as the Italian flag carrier swings by Manila this week.

Luxury cruises go east

Costa Romantica makes its maiden voyage to the Philippines

By Cheche V. Moral

WHILE A HANDFUL stayed behind to lounge and sunbathe under the searing heat on the deck of the Italian flag carrier Costa Romantica recently, the greater number boarded tour vans to visit Pagsanjan Falls, Tagaytay and Corregidor. Others stayed close to Pier 13 of Manila South Harbor, perhaps to take in a bit of history in Intramuros and Luneta, or shop in the nearby malls.

Majority of the ship's passengers are from Australia, the rest from Europe. It was Costa Romantica's maiden voyage to Manila, a member of the fleet of the 60-year-old Costa Cruises, whose other boat, Costa Classica, last made its port of call here in 2009.

According to Dario Rustico, Asia is fast becoming an important source market of the cruise industry, with the region at the same time becoming a favored destination.

"Cruises are moving East," Rustico said, after he and Daniela Tantoco, longtime president of the Philippine Italian Association, briefly announced the boat's regular voyage to Manila.

At the event, Tantoco also formally welcomed Italian ambassador Luca Fornari and his wife Silvana, who began their tour of duty here only two months ago.

"In the '80s and '90s, the cruise market was going to the Caribbean," Rustico continued. "In the last decade, they were going to the Mediterranean and Europe. Now it's to the East. Cruises have grown tremendously in the last 10 years as a way of holidaying... In this decade, Asia will be a real source of passenger market. Governments are investing to allow bigger ships in the region." He cited China, Korea and Japan. Among these, Costa passengers from these countries have been boarding in their local ports.

Asian itineraries

The line's Asian itineraries have been receiving very good feedback thus on this voyage, some 300 passengers are repeat guests, up to 40 percent of them Australians, according to the boat's captain, Pietro Sfirai. Costa Romantica, which sails from Singapore to Hong Kong, Manila, Kota Kinabalu, to Bandar Seri Begawan then back to Singapore, will make five more stops in the country until June.

Sfirai had good things to say about his Filipino crew. "Five to 15 years ago, the crew was mostly from South America. Now majority come from the Philippines," said the Italian captain. "It's a pleasure for us. They have a big heart and are very hard workers. Guests appreciate that a lot."

Costa Cruises sails to 250 destinations worldwide. Cruisers or passengers that have long been associated with cruise guests, the demographic is now getting younger, with age 35-55 making up 60 percent of Costa passengers alone, he said. It's a mixture of families, couples and honeymooners and the traditional seniors' cohort.

"There's a lot of passengers," Rustico ar-

LEISURE G

POOL deck

Davao City: Blooming and booming

By Jake Barrera
Contributor

IT WAS PERHAPS A LUCKY SIGN that on our way to Mindanao for the Davao Adventure Tour, the human loading team in Philippine Entertainment, Pinky Pascual, was on board the same flight. At the International Airport, Pinky was escorted by an assistant to the designated smoking area 30 meters from the door and I decided not to smoke anymore.

Welcome to Davao City, where the maximum fine for smoking in public places is pegged at P10,000, thank you, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte!

Davao should host only the biggest marijuana idol in the land. The largest city in the world in terms of land area (2,300 sq km) deserves nothing less.

Davao is also the home of the mighty Philippine Eagle and the dainty Walling-Walling. It hosts the tallest peak in the country, Mount Apo, towering at 10,311 feet above sea level.

At Marco Polo Davao, we were welcomed by Nigel Fabel, the GM, and public relations officers Meg Ilas, Inez and Patty Haas.

We had a hearty lunch, and after freshening up, we rejuvenated later for sunset cocktails by the comfy restaurant poolside where we downed cappuccinos and mineralwater samples. At dusk, the pool turns into a magical blue color, very apt given that the hotel's poolside spa is dubbed Lazuli. Lapis Lazuli is the hardest semiprecious stone in precolor during ancient times and is considered the most expensive. But the demand for the dye dented from the stones.

The welcome dinner at Poblacion-based Lounge was fantastic. Served were tiger prawns, baby back ribs and prime US-Angus steak. And when the desserts were served, we all agreed the chocolate cake with embrace was heavenly but Inez was the divine bright parade was the best.

Marco Polo Davao, which has been the city's social epicenter for the past 15 years, has hosted all the Philippine presidents since 1996.

The hotel's Chinese outlet, Lotus Court, will be undergoing renovation and our group was lucky to have tasted the best-tasting dim sum and Cantonese cuisine in Davao.

Café Marco, which has the city's longest buffet, offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Alive 24/7

Thanks to the growing call center/BPO business in Davao, the city literally never sleeps. It's open for business—with activity 24/7.

Together with GM Nigel, we sampled the city's nightlife, ranging from sing-along pubs to clubs. Nigel gamely sang in front of total strangers at Pat Buddy's Music Lounge, and danced at Metro Lounge Davao.

The 49-year-old Australian (actually good looking, let's a double-taper for Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart. And he is having everything about Davao.

And for his first "real" night out, Nigel and our group stayed until 2 in the morning drinking, and if not for a morning schedule, we could have stayed up and shoot until the wee hours.

The next day, our first stop was Eden Nature Park & Resort at the foot of Mt. Talomo, an ancient volcano rare to Mt. Apo. From a jagged-cave area covered only by wild grass in 1977, it is now a beautiful mountain investment resort.

At 3,000 feet above sea level, it is dotted with over 100,000 pine trees scattered over 80 hectares of rich volcanic rock. It boasts of flower gardens, fruit orchards, vegetable and herb gardens, hydroponic greenhouses and animal sanctuaries.

It has even a 200-meter zipline attraction called the Skyrider, a perfect way to have a bird's-eye view of Davao City.

At the Skyrider, I couldn't help but notice the yellow ribbons tied at the strobe till our heading to the main dining hall, and when I inquired from our host, he said they had been placed by the staff ever since Canaleta Aquino was confined in Makati Medical Center battling cancer. And since the owners of the nature park, Atty. Ayala, is a good friend of the late president, he too, tested the trees with yellow ribbons for The Cory.

After a sumptuous lunch with lots of green salads from Eden Nature Park's hydroponic farm, we headed to Malagos District, which hosts the Philippine Eagle Center.

Marco Polo Davao is a benefactor of the adoption program of the Eagle Center, the Philippine Eagle Foundation's facility for the care and propagation of the critically endangered Philippine Eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), the third largest eagle in the world and the top predator in the Philippine rainforest.

The hotel has adopted Maridik, one of the few successful cases of Philippine Eagle propagation in captivity. Organized in 1992, the Philippine Eagle Foundation has "Pag-Asa" as its first eagle; he had just celebrated his 18th birthday last month.

We then walked to Davo Homes in Bhimal for Davao's latest attraction, Davo Watersports and Recreation Complex, or it's water wakeboarding.

Surely a month old, the wakeboard complex has attracted Davao's young elite on weekends. Everybody's looking forward to when the complex gets to host a world wakeboarding championship soon.

After a day of activities, we all deserved to get a massage at Lazuli Spa after dinner. I chose the spa's signature massage and the Ginger & Rice scrub, which lasted for almost two hours.

The spa's facilities are impressive, a lobster! L-shaped edifice with treatment rooms that boast of its own steam room and a Jacuzzi for the honeymoon suite.

A nightcap was in order, and we decided to drink tea at the Lobby Lounge while listening to the lounge singer and pianist.

Island City of Samal

This summer, one should check out Samal Island and give Boracay a rest. Barely 15 minutes by boat from city proper sitting at the mouth of Davao Gulf, Samal Island boasts of numerous quaint resorts, ranging from the high-end Pearl Farm to the rustic ones such as Chemai's by the Sea.

Our Filipino cottage was a mix of brick and wood with thatched nipa roof scattered in a garden setting, reminiscent of the old bahay na tisa from Ilocos.

We trekked to the white sand and coconut in the saltwater infinity pool. Since the group was composed mostly of girls, we paused for time watching the Asian Japanese Brazilian models who were part of the delegation and who paraded their bodies under the morning sun.

We destined ourselves into "Kuya Daniel" and "Pinoy Bikini," and posited our sexy assets in the sandscreen.

Model Daniel Matsunaga is very much a kid; his facial features are a deadly mix between those of Dingdong Dantes and Jericho Rosales. He is now an upcoming actor on GMA 7. He is younger but has been traveling around the globe since he started modeling at 15.

Pabito Ida is manifest. He looks like Pinoy Fastball and is an engaging storyteller with his almost perfect English.

But Daniel and Pabito tend to speak in Portuguese, their native tongue, whenever they talk between themselves. The two are now studying Portuguese.

Davao shopping

After lunch, we headed back to the city center and tried Davao's pride, D'MALL.

We frolicked in the water and had fun with Daniel and Pabito, who were both models. Then we had lunch at the resort's restaurant, Kuya Daniel ordered the Filipino dish sinigang na hipon (shrimp sour soup) and Pabito had the pasta.

After lunch, we headed back to the city center and tried Davao's pride, D'MALL.

ITALIAN Ambassador Luca Ferrari and wife Silvana

FORMER Ambassador Siemowski Tantoco Sr. (center) shares with his daughter Zenaida Tantoco, Philippine-Italian Association president (left), and Silvana Ferrari, wife of the Italian ambassador

ELEGANTE in Costa Romantica

LOVIN' the tropical sun in luxury-liner comfort

Luxury cruises go east

First page 01

ITALIAN Ambassador Luca Ferrari shows the hand of Philippine-Italian Association president Zenaida Tantoco after she formally welcomes him and his wife Silvana to the country. The Ferraris began their tour of duty here two months ago.

knowledged. "They used to see you come on the ship and you get for because you eat a lot. Now we have rooms built with open, [French] windows and [no-balconies]. If you want outdoor [gastronomy], you can have it. There's a wide variety of offerings aboard the ship and on shore excursions. You can choose whether you just want to visit the country on your own or to eat in style or relax. Cruise vacations have the highest customer satisfaction."

Pantino also underscored the benefits of cruise holidays to its ports of call. "We bring important and very positive investment into the country. It's not only the fees that we pay when we dock, a lot of organizations benefit from it. We give work to tour guides, to suppliers of food and water, to taxi drivers, hotels, travelers. The impact can be

COSTA Romantica's Capt. Pietro Sisto and, below, Dario Ramirez of Costa Classica

WHILE some cruise passengers prefer shore excursions in Puyuhan, Tagaytay and Corregidor, others opt to work out in the ship's gym.

economy is very big."

There's a "big demand" from Costa's traditional market to go to Asia, he noted. Aussies and Europeans, he says, find Manila an exotic stop.

"The Philippines has a lot to offer. You should remember that cruise [holiday makers] have higher purchasing power than regular travelers. It's usually their first time to visit a country, but it won't be the last. If they like what they find here, they will come back and maybe even visit the other cities."

LILYLG Spa seating area

Davao City . . .

From page 6

River Cave's dances suffice. Honestly, I am not a fan of the durian fruit, except the candied version, but I took the plunge.

I also checked Cecil's Cake, the Davao winner of Iconstore's 24 Best Desserts, and tried their bestsellers other than Durian Cake, their humpising ascites and queen cake.

When it was time for serious shopping, we all went to Aldevinco Shopping Center, Davao's foremost name for pasalubong shopping. Being a shopaholic, I also asked the group if we could drop by Chanco, Davao's version of a high-end shopping mall. We at last checked out new boutiques like Marinis and Bas Classic along JP Laurel Avenue. They carry slightly used and brand-new designer bags and knick-knacks ranging from perfumed to clothes and flipflops.

A gargantuan Ayala mall is being constructed...a pavement-slap between the conglomerate and Davao's Thermedics. The Abreeza Mall will be the next best thing. This P5.2billion development will give mall-competition to the well-entrenched Gaisano as well as SM in Davao City.

I also tried ordering homemade candied apples from my dear friend who has relocated to Davao, former GMA news-runner Grace Evangelista-Lucap. Oh online, call her at 0915-61 86911).

The Bangsamoro Museum has four become Davao's newest tourist destination, albeit on the modest side. And who will ever say no to pearls, with Sultan divers selling them from the Pearl Farm Marina all the way

SAMSUNG straight headline

to the city's various stores? I made sure I loaded up on the pearls since they are cheaper in Davao compared to the Luzon in Greenhills.

Davao City is a treasure waiting to be discovered and rediscovered. It is a city striving for a healthier standard of living, as shown by its smoking and firecracker/fireworks bans. It's a big city mind on clean living.

The Davao Adventure Tour was hosted by Metro Pole Davao, owned by Sultan Davao Island Inc. and chaired by cuebe G. Dominguez, in cooperation with Ted Morris PR. To fight, for reservations, e-mail davao@marcopolohotels.com; visit www.marcopolohotels.com; or call their Manila ticket office at (02) 8090000.

Premium card for frequent travelers

AMERICAN EXPRESS HAS LAUNCHED a card co-branded with Cathay Pacific Airways. With an earn rate per Asia Miles of 1P2Z for the Standard Credit Card and P3K on the Elite Credit Card, the card represents the faster way to earn miles and redeem them for air tickets on selected lifestyle rewards from Asia Miles, the travel reward program managed by Cathay Pacific.

For cardholders who often travel on business, Asia Miles allows easy redemption of air tickets from Cathay Pacific Airways, its sister company Dragonair and 18 other airline partners. For subscribers, Asia Miles airline partners entitle the executive doing business in Hong Kong and China seamless flight options. Moreover, Asia Miles is not just limited to Asia; it can take the frequent traveler to any corporate destination in the world such as New York and Paris.

The good reviews of Asia Miles program went key reasons for the tie-up. In the Asia Pacific region, frequent flyers who represent the readers of Business Traveller magazine, selected Asia Miles for their program as the best frequent flyer program. Business Traveller, which has 10 editions worldwide, is the leading magazine for executives who often travel and seek airline industry news and offers.

In addition, travelers have given high marks to Cathay Pacific Airways' extensive in-flight service and entertainment amenities, as well as online check-in and even mobile check-in through web-enabled mobile phones.

"Both Cathay Pacific Airways and Asia Miles meet the lifestyle needs of our affluent card members who love to travel," says Ms. Manuel B. Bogalo, first vice president of BPI. The bank is the sole issuer of American Express Credit Cards in the Philippines.

Card users also appreciate that all spending on the cards are automatically transferred to Asia Miles, making it easier for them to redeem rewards. In contrast, some cards require card members to transfer their miles in blocks which is very inconvenient and does not ensure that every peso spent can be converted into miles.

Card members also enjoy complimentary green fees membership in Cathay Pacific's Marco Polo Club which means they enjoy priority check-in and boarding privileges.

"Altogether, the perks offered by the Cathay Pacific American Express Card are unmatched," says Bogalo.

Targeting travelers, all cards issued by American Express are differentiated by the Selects program that enables users to enjoy more than 5,000 privileges and special offers globally in the Philippines alone. American Express Card members enjoy savings and perks from 41 hotel partners, 51 retail merchants, 143 dining outlets and 28 wellness merchants in the Selects Program.

Call the 24 hour customer service hotline at 61 417.

Summer sojourns with Globe

Globe, Tattoo or TM subscribers can now get great travel deals by simply reloading their pre-paid lines or using their post-paid lines. Points earned on Globe Rewards can now be converted into mileage points on Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles.

More points earned on Globe Rewards gives Globe, Tattoo or TM post-paid and pre-paid subscribers more Mabuhay Miles. For as low as 30,000 miles, for example, subscribers can fly to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur or other Asian destinations. Globe Rewards can also be used to get great discounts for a weekend at the posh Shangri-la Mactan Resort & Spa in Cebu, the Astoria Plaza or any Marriott Inns & Suites.

Globe Rewards points can also be converted to free passes to Manila Ocean Park, Enchanted Kingdom and Avilon Zoo, free KTV time at Center Stage, or free movie

A warm welcome awaits Globe guests at Mactan Inns & Suites

tickets at Ayala Cinemas nationwide.

There's no need to sign up. For as long as the Globe, Tattoo or TM SIM is active, subscribers get points automatically. Even active Globe SMS used abroad are qualified to earn Globe Rewards.

Text REWARDS to 4438 (G-I-F-T on your mobile phone) to get that dream vacation or day-out under-way now.

Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa
CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Exclusive travel privileges for cardholders

MASTERCARD HELPS MAKE ONE'S TRAVEL priceless through MasterCard Moments.

MasterCard Moments (www.MasterCardMoments.com) is an online repository of value-added privileges and services especially designed for Premiere MasterCard cardholders.

It offers experiences and benefits designed to inspire and enrich the lives of MasterCard World, Platinum and Titanium cardholders. Below are some of the MasterCard Moments that cardholders can enjoy in popular holiday destinations like Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

For the wine connoisseur, a visit to The 8th Estate Winery in Hong Kong is a must. From now until June 30, a cardholder and seven companions can enjoy luxury limousine transfers between their Hong Kong address of choice and the 8th Estate Winery and Feng Shoot, which boasts the largest collection of Feng champagnes outside of France. They can also enjoy a personalized tour for a day, a demonstration of blending techniques, a chance to create their very own wine blend and 12 bottles of wine per person with personalized labels created from their individual bespoke blends, which they can then bring home.

A trip to Thailand won't be complete without experiencing the famous Thai massage, which can can enjoy at the Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket. Available until Oct. 31, a three-night package offers a selection of the resort's signature treatments and holistic therapies.

The package is complemented with sailing trips by dolce Cat and windsurfing, sea kayaking and open ocean rowing. Long tail boat excursions, mountain biking and trekking, fishing excursions and sightseeing explorations.

For inspired dining in the Land of the Rising Sun, there's The Peninsula Tokyo's culinary delights. The hotel is just three minutes away from the shopping capital of Ginza.

REJUVENATING: Treatments and other outdoor activities are available for American Express cardholders at the Six Senses Destination Spa in Phuket, Thailand.

From now until Dec. 31, a cardholder and 4 companions can go on a gastronomic journey at The Peninsula Tokyo while also enjoying an upgrade to the next room category of the time of booking, plus daily American breakfast at The Lobby.

If one is in Singapore and has the urge to visit Europe, he or she can fly in style via Lufthansa Private Jet, which flies to more than a thousand destinations within Europe.

Available until Sept. 30, this package defines flexibility and convenience in reaching cymes or multiple destinations, and maximize connections to long-haul flights. With bookings as easy as a scheduled flight—and a bottle of Bois Pelegrin Chateauneuf-du-Pape awaiting on board—the luxurious private jet connection makes for a priceless vacation.

Finally, in New York, one of the world's fashion capitals, Digne Genest fashion editor Kathleen Beckett introduces cardholders to America's top designers and arranges their own personal fittings and exclusive trunk shows.

Valid until Dec. 31, stay in the heart of the Big Apple at the iconic Peninsula Hotel and upgrade to the next room category at time of booking.

For more information, visit www.mastercardmoments.com.

Secret garden in the south

Batangas' Villa Crisanta is an idyllic alternative to the typical events venue or weekend getaway

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A honeymoon groom to exchange I do's with his Filipina bride, and for a family of three gravitation-locking to spend the holidays together in a house not too far from their own.

Originally a private mango orchard, the sprawling Villa Crisanta has since been reinvented into a premiere resort and events venue of the south, an idyllic alternative to the typical weekend destinations.

A two-hour drive from the bustling South Luzon Expressway to the fresh air and easygoing atmosphere of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Nasugbu, Batangas, lends you to this gated sanctuary and a lush landscape of exotic plants, trees and flowers.

Already, locals have discovered this neighborhood paradise for its refreshing swimming pools, but grows in sheer size and the seamless contrast between the private Villa Crisanta comfortably accommodates everyone from a solo traveler on a spiritual retreat, to an intimate and dreamy wedding ceremony, and even large groups like a family reunion or corporate affair.

Aside from offering guests a breathtaking view of the property from its balcony, the main house boasts a grand pavilion for up to 400 visitors, and seven bedrooms. Those who prefer to keep to themselves can stay in one of several casitas, fully-functional cottages fitted with aircon/ventilators as air-conditioning, flat screen TV and DVD players.

Spend a lazy day in bed watching movies you missed, or take a stroll—or golf cart ride...on the sun's slim road to explore the huge premises. There's a spa where you can unwind in a foot or full-body massage, cool tropical potable shakes, a videoke machine and pool table.

Villa Crisanta's also the place where city-bred kids can appreciate the beauty of the great outdoors. Horseback riding, tree planting, fishing for tilapia, and, of course, the seasonal mango picking are just some of the fun activities to do in this uncomplicated getaway.

And, if you're the type of traveler who insists on enjoying the best of both worlds, this serene sanctuary is a quick car ride away from town, where familiar planes like a popular fast food joint can be found.

For directions to and reservations at Villa Crisanta, visit www.villacrisanta.com.

THE HAMMOCKS! Love of Villa Crisanta, the picture perfect venue for weddings

THE PAVILION can seat 150 to 400 people for weddings and banquets

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NOKIA

SHADOW PLAY: Urian Winners Arrnida Sigson-Reyes and Anita Linda on Thursday's mini.

CHEER FACTOR

Promoter considers extending Tears for Fears concert

HIGE HOPES FOR TICKETS TO THE sold-out Tears for Fears concert on May 2 at the Araneta Coliseum has made promoters consider extending it for one more night on May 9. This was revealed to the location by reliable sources, who requested anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the matter. As press time, concert promoter Stream Dr Gun of Creation Productions and Araneta Coliseum management were still meeting on extending the one-night-only gig. This is the British band's first visit to the country. It is regarded as one of the most popular New Wave acts of the 1980s.

PRECIOUS: Lara Quigaman and Marvo Alcaraz

'Small' films, big triumphs

By Maximal B. Cruz
Photos by Jon Victor Pamolan

LOU VELOSO ALMOST TURNED DOWN THE role which won for him the Best Supporting Actor trophy at the Urian Awards held Thursday at the Cine Adarna of UP Diliman.

"It required a trip from Manila to Greece. The director is a newbie. Ang sikat ko sa bagong direktor maganda matitrato," said Veloso of his role as Pedro, an ex-convict in "Colorum"—an indie road movie directed by Jon Victor Pamolan.

"I never thought this project would bring me this," Veloso told the inquirer.

(PAGE 2)

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Cate Blanchett has 'playfully combative' friendship with Russell Crowe

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LONDON—SOFT BEAMS OF sunset filtering through the window of a meeting room at The Dorchester Hotel cast a luminous glow on Cate Blanchett's lovely face.

But the total impact of Cate's appearance, touched by her elegant voice and accent, was humanously "subdued" by a "Robin Hood" poster in the background that showed a glowering Russell Crowe screaming bloody murder at an arrow in her.

The arresting juxtaposition unwittingly underscored the "playfully combative" but warmly friendship they have forged. Cate plays lady Marian in Ridley Scott's take on the "Bravell of Nottingham in the movie directed by Ridley Scott, which features a cast of Mary Tilden, Oscar nominee Max von Sydow, Oscar- and Golden Globe-winning actress to spend some time from office.

Below are excerpts from our interview with Cate, who spoke with soft and hesitant about her equally famous fellow Aussie:

What's the difference between you and Maid Marian?

I probably gave in to Russell, don't as much as Marian did to Robin Hood).

Talk about giving in to Russell...

Or not giving in to Russell (laughing).

Tell us about working with him for the first time.

We've had a very suddenly fun, up e-mail correspondence which I really relish. He's got a great sense of humor. As Australians, because we live in a land mass the size of South America but where there's only 20 million of us, the performing industry is really quite small. So you get invested in one another's successes, achievements and career paths.

I'm Hollywood has only connect with great interest. He is a force of nature (laughing). Like Bull. Jay is a force of nature. Unstoppable, unstoppable him. So you wonder how are we going to be together? But I found him irresistibly generous and absolutely dedicated.

Russell told us about sobbing an audience at a gala recording your stamps if they thought that you and he should make a movie together.

Before we were up the podium, Russell said he was going to ask me to be in a film so that in front of everyone and take a vote. I said, "I dare you." And he did. That's kind of how the relationship followed. We are playfully antithetic. That probably came across in the dynamics of the film. I'm very fond of him.

After you joked at that event that you can't wait to be linked by thousands of Australians, Russell reportedly leaned over and told you that the stamps are self-adhesive and moist...

I'd just have a few tradies. The dress rehearsal. I had never watched a drop before working with him.

I guess he appreciated how you're older than he is.

As a drunk human being, it's like a tennis match. We go out and do something together. I used to do that more before I had children. Now, I'm constantly looking at my watch and thinking, can I pick them up from school? Will I get home in time to put them to bed?

to it was great that the kids were with us and were there on the set often. At the end of the day they were in the trailer. So it became like a common bathroom.

This is also your first time to work with Ridley Scott.

Ridley and I had once talked about making something else together. That didn't come to pass. So when this came around, I grabbed the chance. He may say he's not a perfectionist (Ed.) However, sparkling also says that. Ridley and Steven are such creatures of their craft that, if a shot is not working, they're able to go into a whole huge set up, move everything over and create an equally interesting shot. It's an thrilling to be part of that.

Has what I really loved about working with Ridley is that he'd phrase things in a way that you could never say no. He'd say, "I want you to walk through behind that horse while another one is going to run at you. You gotta going to stop backwards, go around, hit that guy with the broadsword, turn around, hit the other guy with the broadsword, go upstairs, open the building and then all these people are going to run out rough

ing because that building is going to be filled with smoke. That's OK, isn't it?' Bingo, 'Yes, OK, let's go.'

Did playing a woman who worked hard on the field make you think about how rough it was back then?

I've always doing that. I'm currently a stressing mother who goes to the supermarket and say to my boss, "See this piece of meat is, please? That was a raw cow!" My boss get it every day. Have just for three eyes.

Did you relish the physicality of the role and how much time was on your body?

It's a matter of wiping the blood, dirt, sweat and scratches off and putting the dirt on. It's sort of one dirt replaces another.

How do you manage to be a mother of three boys and an actor across at the same time?

The boys were always on the set with me. But now they enroll to be in school so that's harder to do. I go to the office two days a week. I pick them up from school every day. That works really well.

E-mail the columnist at rvnquilet_DAILY@yahoo.com

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Ninoy Aquino on History

"Till assassination of Senator Aquino Jr." a one-hour documentary that looks into the unsolved death of the senator, airs tomorrow at 8 p.m. on the History channel.

The documentary is based on the detailed series of reports written by Inquirer's Fe Zamora in 2008 and pools together the efforts of director Jimmy Henson, project producer Ilara Maganoc Alikpala and Veronica Duran, broadcast journalist Ed Lingao and filmmaker Mike de Guzman.

History and the Atlantyn Productions team covered all bases when it came to interviews, presenting a wide range of perspectives.

Julia Roberts, 42, is People's prettiest

LOS ANGELES—JULIA ROBERTS snapped the list of People mag, minus "World's Most Beautiful People" on Wednesday, marking the 12th time that the "Pretty Woman" star has appeared in the annual special issue.

Roberts, 42, mother of 3-year-old twins and a 2-year-old son, is joined by Halle Berry, Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Lopez on the 2015 list.

Garry Marshall, who directed Roberts in her breakout role as a prostitute with a heart of gold in the movie "Pretty Woman" 26 years ago, said she was "as beautiful as ever."

Marshall told People: "She's much more seasoned and calm now and not so stressed. She is quite the mature—very charming."

Roberts, who won an Oscar in 2001 for her lead role in "Erin Brockovich," will be seen next in August in the movie "Eat, Pray, Love" based on the best-selling book of the same name by Elizabeth Gilbert.

Ashley Judd—who in 2011 also plays a vampire in the "Twilight" hit movie franchise—was among the newcomers to the widely read list due to a measure of celebrity status.

Her "Twilight" co-star, heartthrob Robert Pattinson, as well as Canadian teen singer Justin Bieber and 2009 "American Idol" runner-up Adam Lambert made it to the main section of "world's most beautiful."

New section

Meanwhile, actresses Jessica Biel, Jessica Alba and singer Ariana Grimpon were featured in a new "Beautiful American" section.

While Roberts appeared on the cover of the People magazine special edition, other celebrities were not ranked but included Jennifer Aniston, Rihanna, Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Bradley Cooper, Johnny Depp and Derek Dempsey.

Last year's title was awarded by People magazine editors to actress Christina Applegate, who had previously made public her battle with breast cancer and double mastectomy. Reuters

Small films, big triumphs

From page 9

His portrayal of Belen, who goes on a journey to escape the site of an accident that had killed an American NGO worker, earlier won for Sakaw his first-ever Star Award onstage at the 2009 Dimensions Philippine Independent Film Festival.

The veteran thespian said he's sharing his Urian award with his "healing man" Alfred Vargas, who plays Simon, a good-hearted policeman moonlighting as a cop (Sipa).

6 awards

But it was Billanes Mendoza's two-film effort which won big time, taking home six awards: Best Film, Best Director (Mendoza), Best Actress (Alfred Dhokasi-Ekkamil for "Kinatay"), and Best Actress Bradley Cooper and Anna Lindal, Best Screenplay (Linda Gustavo) and Best Production Design. (Mendoza) for "Lolo."

"In the years that I have been doing

Did You Know...

Lennon's 'Day in Life' lyrics up for auction

LONDON—JOHN Lennon's handwritten lyrics to "A Day in the Life," considered one of the Beatles' greatest songs and the final track on "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," will go on sale in New York in June.

Sotheby's auction house described it as "the revolutionary song that marked the Beatles' transformation from pop icons to artists," expects the manuscript to fetch $500,700,000 when it goes under the hammer on June 30.

The single sheet of paper features a rough draft of the lyrics, including crossings out and a spelling error where "lifted" is written as "flits."

Apparently added later is the line: "I love to turn you on," for which the song was banned by the BBC when it first came out in 1967 because the words were deemed to be a reference to taking drugs. Reuters

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MANILA

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2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2 (3D)
4 WORKING GIRLS
5 IRON MAN 2
6 IRON MAN 2
7 THE LOSERS

METRO EAST

1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
5 THE LOSERS
6 IRON MAN 2
7 WORKING GIRLS
8 THE BACK-UP PLAN

NOVALICHES

1 IRON MAN 2
2 THE LOSERS
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4 IRON MAN 2
5 CLASH OF THE TITANS

DASMARIÑAS

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5 IRON MAN 2
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2 THE LOSERS
3 IRON MAN 2
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2 IRON MAN 2
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6 IRON MAN 2

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Where's the party now?

By Rayvi Siy Diaz Jr.
Photos courtesy of GMA 7
Additional photos by Donna G. Valerio

CEBU CITY—AUDIENCE WARMUP. It's a job.

The audience warmer's duty is to energize the crowd gathered for a show—as this one, GMA 7's "Party Pilipinas" at the Cebu International Convention Center last Sunday—and keep it going at the same high-octane level as the performers onstage.

Audience warmer Tina Basok, formerly of "Sic," and "audience saxer" Ishie's another job title known outside show biz) Mega Uncles are "it."

From all discernible indications, the Kapuso network is pulling out all the stops for "Party's" ongoing road show.

Last Sunday, 118 artists, nine musicians, four dancers (including Hollywood choreographer Fatima), 81 staffers and 137 crew members were flown in Cebu. That's in total of 725 pax in bodies.

The contingent was led by Pilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment TV, who told Inquirer Entertainment: "I need to be here... This is a new show."

Only two months ago, "Party Pilipinas" took over the slot of "SOP," which ran for a dozen years. It's still wobbly, but the stars are mostly going his.

In Cebu, singer Jay R gamely took over the song numbers of host-and-creative-consultant Dyan Castillejo who had stayed in Manila for a wedding, until Saturday.

"Starstruck" winner Mark Herras said it is not uncommon for him to have at least one to three dance numbers. "We are preparing bigger production numbers," Herras said. "These numbers make 'Party' different from 'SOP.' It's for new show, even singers like Jay R and Aemilie. We're all new!"

The singers, led by Herras and Mark Bautista, had joined the dance workshop under Fatima, who extended his month-long stint to the country for three more weeks.

Jay R said everybody's pushing themselves to the limit. "Main problem on 'SOP' was that we grew complacent after being No. 1 for so long. Now, there's renewed excitement and energy."

There's also a little rumbling.

Director Louie Ignacio resigned after the Cebu show, citing "creative differences."

Still, the provincial tour's next stop in Davao (today) pushes through, to be deserted by Bautista and Eachu, and Eubanda Bisaya fitness and Dingdong Dantes lead the guests. The show airs at around 2 p.m., after the Mayweather-Mosley bout.

Next week, "Party" proceeds to the Ybanez Coliseum in Antipolo, Rizal.

HANDS-ON senior Kapuso officers Wilma Galvante and Butch Raquel

AUDIENCE (sic) warmer Mega Uncles does his thing.

PARTA Arnold Duran guests today.

NICOLE celebrates her birthday

LA DIVA and Jay R

SAILED Ide, Nish Jaunzon, Jishim Sace, Dino Hemidoka, Daniel Manunag

THE CLOSER (just to you... Fans at the foot of the stage at Cebu International Convention Center. Look but little so do with this. They had been "audience sax."

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Screaming idol

LOS ANGELES—Siobhan Magnus, the 29-year-old reluctant "heart-cast idol" with the big wail, said on Thursday she hopes to launch a career on records, in movies, on stage or "for whoever wants to hear me scream."

She explained: "I am an avid cheer singer. I was singing a Sally Clarkson song and I went in for one note and I was able to resonate it in a different part of my head. From since I figured it out, I started to use it more and more in school choirs and in my band.

"I do aspire someday to be in something like 'Phantom of the Opera' or Jesus Christ Superstar' ... I love acting, and singing, and the two of them together are so much fun."

Reuters